FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 FEBRUARY 1986

Israeli Search Operation in Lebanon

Israel will not cease its efforts to locate two IDF soldiers who were kidnapped in southern Lebanon 17 February, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. A large IDF force continued to conduct searches for the two Israelis 18 February, the radio noted, adding that the IDF has captured two persons involved in the kidnapping. The two Israelis were kidnapped near the southern village of Bayt Yahun during an ambush in which two army of Southern Lebanon soldiers were killed, the radio revealed.

On the Lebanese side, the "Islamic Resistance" claimed responsibility for the ambush in a statement reported by AFP. Resistance sources cited by KUNA said the two Israelis have been moved to "somewhere in Lebanon" where they are receiving treatment for serious wounds. Meanwhile, Beirut radio reported that local resistance men attempted to resist the Israeli sweep through southern villages 17 and 18 February, stating that seven resistance fighters were killed or wounded in clashes with the Israelis in the Srifa area, east of Tyre. The radio also asserted that an Israeli helicopter was downed near Srifa, though monitored Israeli media have not confirmed the claim.

Iran-Iraq War

Three Iraqi columns are "tightening their noose" around Iranian troops trapped in a narrow pocket in the Al-Faw area, INA asserted in an 18 February report on the military situation. Iraq has cut supply lines and reinforcements to the Iranian force by launching air strikes against six important bridges inside Iran and by destroying two Iranian supply ships in the Gulf, the Iraqi agency said. Earlier, INA reported that Iraqi aircraft hit Khark Island and the Ganaveh pipeline intersection 16 February, adding that Iran's "confirmed" losses in the week since the start of its offensive included 6 aircraft, 84 gunboats, and 22 tanks.

In contrast, IRNA claimed that Iranian forces in the Al-Faw area continued their advance the night of 17 February, killing or wounding 400 Iraqis. Iranian troops earlier seized an Iraqi radar warning system north of Al-Faw which Iraq had used to guide its aircraft for attacks on shipping, according to an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA 17 February. The communique also updated Iran's tally of Iraqi losses since the start of the Iranian offensive, claiming that over 14,000 Iraqis have been killed or injured and that 40 Iraqi warplanes and helicopters have been shot down. Iranian officials cited by the agency denied Iraq's claim to have downed 4 Iranian aircraft 15-17 February and dismissed "baseless" Iraqi claims about Majnun Island. Iraq had announced in a military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 15 February that its forces killed 4,405 Iranians in recent battles to "liberate and defend" the Majnun oil field.

On the diplomatic level, Tehran radio disclosed 18 February that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has sent a message to the UN secretary general reaffirming Iran's willingness to study any proposal by the secretary general connected with the war. Nevertheless, Velayati called on the Security Council to condemn Iraq as the "aggressor" and the radio reported earlier that Iran will not attend the Security Council meeting unless the Council condemns Iraq for invading Iran and for violating the June 1984 moratorium on attacks against residential areas. Meanwhile, INA noted Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's arrival in New York to attend the Security Council meeting following his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow 17 February. Meanwhile, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah in Baghdad, INA noted. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had earlier received Prince Sa'ud and Shaykh Sabah in Damascus, according to SANA, and KUNA subsequently cited Shaykh Sabah's statement that his visit to Damascus and Baghdad was aimed at bringing Iraqi and Syrian viewpoints closer.

Iran

A bomb exploded at a bus terminal in southern Tehran 17 February, killing one person and wounding six others, IRNA reported, adding that "agents of imperialism" were responsible.

Chad-Libya

French Defense Minister Paul Quiles held Libya responsible for the 17 February air attack on the runway of Ndjamena Airport, AFP reported, and he disclosed that three French aircraft arrived at the airport in the wake of the raid as part of a "deterrent" force which France is sending to Chad. A Tupolev 22 escorted by fighters had bombed the airport from a high altitude in apparent reprisal for the 16 February attack by French warplanes on the Libyan-Built GUNT base at Ouadi Doum, according to AFP. For Libya's part, JANA said the GUNT's air force was responsible for the raid on Ndjamena Airport, adding that sources close to the GUNT said this was in retaliation for the French attack on the "civilian" airfield at Ouadi Doum, which is used for transporting famine relief supplies. In contrast, the Chadian Government expressed appreciation for the French action against Ouadi Doum in a statement reported by Ndjamena radio, asserting that the airfield was one of two main bases from which Libyan forces launched their recent attacks on Chadian Government positions. A Chadian military communique carried by the radio, meanwhile, reaffirmed Chadian claims to have repulsed the attacks by the "invading Libyan Army" 10-13 February, stating that Chadian troops inflicted over 1,000 casualties and captured over 950 enemy soldiers in "this great victory over Al-Qadhdhafi."

JANA stated in a 16 February commentary that Libya was "surprised" by the renewed fighting in Chad and does "not know" who started it. An *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* editorial cited by the agency attributed the French intervention in Chad to U.S. influence, claiming that France has become "the servant of America in Africa."

Egypt-Jordan-PLO

Palestinian-Jordanian talks on a Middle East settlement will resume in Amman "in the next few days," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak announced 18 February, AFP reported. In earlier developments, MENA reported that Mubarak and PLO executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held further talks in Cairo 16 and 18 February. 'Arafat and Mubarak discussed a PLO proposal that Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan form a "unified Arab delegation" to attend an international peace conference on the Middle East, QNA reported citing the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD.* Following a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi 15 February, 'Arafat said the recent U.S. statement on the Palestinians is "a step forward when compared to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," MENA reported.

Israel-Egypt

The Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks returned to Cairo from Israel 16 February following the conclusion of the second round of discussions, MENA reported. Egyptian delegation leader Nabil al-'Arabi said that the formulation of the "arbitral compromise" was discussed at length but that issues requiring further negotiation still exist, MENA added. An Israeli Foreign Ministry source told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that the negotiations are proceeding "exactly as expected" and that the next round of talks will resume on or around 3 March.

PDRY-USSR

Aden radio reported the arrival in Moscow 15 February of General Secretary of the YSP Central Committee 'Ali Salim al-Bayd.

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PFLP Denounces 'Arafat's Visit to Cairo

JN151450 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1413 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, 15 Feb (SANA) — The PFLP has denounced Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, affirming that it is within the framework of the attempts being made by the parties to the U.S. settlement to overcome the obstacles impeding their moves, particularly convincing the deviationist rightwing leadership to accept Resolution 242 and the Zionist entity's right to exist in return for nothing.

In a press statement published here today, a spokesman for the PFLP Political Bureau said this visit is serious because it comes in the wake of the maneuvering statements by the U.S. State Department spokesman through which he tried to bait this leadership in order to drag it into the U.S. morass with ambiguous talk about the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The PFLP explained that this visit also comes at time when the Egyptian regime is resurrecting the Camp David accords through the Tabah negotiations and at a time when it is preparing to launch a fierce campaign against the opposition as is clear from this regime's repeated threats to it.

The PFLP warned 'Arafat's deviationist leadership against responding to the pressures exerted by the parties to the U.S. solution. It called on the national forces and bodies to be very vigilant and ready to confront the dangers posed to the struggle of our people and to their national cause.

'Arafat Receives Soviet Message in Cairo

LD161426 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1247 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb, KUNA — It was reported here today that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Egypt, last night received a message from the Soviet leadership regarding "the latest developments in the Arab and world situation and bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and the PLO."

The message was conveyed by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo when he had a meeting with 'Arafat here last night. The meeting was attended by the PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and the PLO representative in Cairo, Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim.

Discusses Proposed Conference

NC170834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian issue must be settled by an international conference attended by the Soviet Union, the United States, the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the parties to the Middle East conflict, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat added that the Palestinian people's national rights, which are defined by UN resolutions, should be asserted in such a conference.

In an exclusive interview with the weekly *MAYU*, published today, 'Arafat denied that PLO participation in any talks is contingent on its approval of UN Security Council Resolution 242. He added that the PLO previously had been invited to enter into negotiations without this approval being a precondition.

Asked about the PLO approval of this Resolution, 'Arafat replied: How can the Palestinian issue be resolved if the Palestinian people are excluded from the meeting? This is the twisted logic of the United States. To rectify this misconception, we must be admitted with no strings attached.

Yasir 'Arafat reiterated that Resolution 242 treats the Palestinian problem as one of refugees. He asserted: We deserve to be treated as a nation of 5 million people.

'Arafat warned the United States against following a pro-Israeli policy. Such a policy is destructive and jeopardizes U.S. interests in the area, he said.

Asked about the PLO stand on the recent Iranian offensive against Iraq, 'Arafat replied: We condemn the Iranian aggression. Iraq is an Arab country and we would not hesitate to condemn anyone who infringes on the sanctity of its territories. 'Arafat urged "shuttle" diplomacy between Iraq and Iran.

Commenting on his current visit to Egypt, 'Arafat remarked that since the Cairo Declaration of November, many changes occurred on the Arab, Palestinian, and international levels. The Palestinian problem, he added, has regained its place as the critical factor in the Middle East equation.

In reply to another question, 'Arafat denied that the Palestinian leaders are too busy with internal affairs to focus on the main issue. He affirmed: Our internal affairs are those of the Palestinian people and our only concern.

Finally, 'Arafat stated that he is not worried about the future of the Arab Middle East strategy. The current disintegration will pass, he said.

Conveys Saddam Message

GF170924 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic
0700 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Feb (WAM) — In a dispatch from Cairo, the UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* reported today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat conveyed a message from Iraqi president Saddam Husayn to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak pertaining to recent developments of the Iraq-Iran war. The paper added that the PLO and Egypt are expected to launch a large international move designed to end the war following the fast developments witnessed recently.

'Arafat had held talks in Baghdad with the Iraqi president prior to his arrival in Cairo dealing with the political and the military situation along the Iraq-Iran front.

Arab League Committee Meets With USSR Official

LD161453 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Moscow, 16 Feb 86, KUNA — Ambassadors of Arab countries' members of the Seven-member Committee of the Arab League held a meeting here today with the head of the Near East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Polyakov. The latest development of the recent Iranian attack on Iraqi territory and its threat to world security and peace were discussed at the meeting.

Algiers VOP Discusses New Murphy Initiative

LD160016 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Again, the United States is trying to inflate [word indistinct] the settlements that are rejected by Palestinians, hoping a spark from the wickedness of the U.S. proposals will ignite the Palestinian house, the fire from which, if it catches, would encourage those who are waiting their turn to get on the train of the U.S.-Zionist settlement.

The new U.S. attempt is represented in the so-called indirect shuttle mediation initiated by the U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East Richard Murphy in London in what he termed as bringing together Arab proposals and the Zionist proposals made by the enemy prime Minister Shim'on Peres during his visit to London. Peres discussed them with Murphy after the latter flew in a hurry from the capital of his country in a new U.S. move aimed at reviving President Reagan's plan which is about dead after it was rejected by the PLO openly and categorically and after our masses and national leadership inside Palestine put a stone in the mounth of whoever came to talk about it. The tune that has emerged from the present U.S.-Zionist proposals is an old U.S. tune based on what has been termed as resolving the deadlock in the peace process. It is an attempt to break the Palestinian rejection of all U.S.-Zionist attempts to have a free hand in the region at the expense of our legitimate national rights, foremost among which are our right of self-determination and return and establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The proof of this is in the statement made by the enemy Prime Minister Peres concerning the three conditions for peace, as he claims namely that the PLO must accept Resolution 242, disassociate itself from terrorism, and agree to talks within the context of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. He explained the last condition saying: I suggest that Arab mayors from the West Bank and Palestinian members of the Jordanian parliament should be represented at the talks. Furthermore, he stipulated that the PLO must agree to cancel its national Charter and recognize the enemy. Thus, and without preliminaries the PLO's head is the price wanted for the possibility of the Zionist enemy agreeing to sit down with some Arabs to discuss the so-called peace process.

What is bewildering here is not the U.S. or Zionist enemy's stand, but the stand of some Arabs who believe the United States and the Zionist enemy possess the credibility required for discussing the attempts to cut off the PLO's head; in other words those who ask us to bring our head to the guillotine willingly in return for U.S. and Zionist promises of achieving peace in the region.

Never mind, let the United States continue trying and let the Zionist enemy continue to play tricks, and let some Arabs draw pleasure from dreaming about peace at the expense of our people's cause; this is a matter we do not fear and we have reason to fear because our people are standing fast inside and our national leadership there have already stressed their categorical rejection of all these U.S.-Zionist intrigues. Murphy himself better than anyone else is familiar with the position of our people inside, who have made their bodies, soul, and liberties a part of the tax for protecting the independent Palestinian national decision and protecting the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people. Our people and revolutionaries inside have not only said: No verbally to those, but they are practicing it daily in heroic operations which are the Palestinian reply to all U.S. and Zionist attempts to establish an alleged peace at the expense of our legitimate national rights.

Joint Forces Attack Israeli-Lahd Position

JN151807 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1648 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces have attacked a joint position of the Zionist occupation forces and their agent militias in Tallat Yatir in southern Lebanon. The attack heavily heavy damaged the position. Immediately after the attack, the Zionist forces launched a search campaign for the attackers.

Joint Forces Shell Israeli Settlement in Galilee

JN161903 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces have shelled a Zionist settlement in occupied Upper Galilee. A statement issued by the joint forces command said that the heavy rocket unit shelled the settlement with two 107-mm Katyusha rockets of an advanced type. The rockets accurately hit their targets. The statement added that the two Katyushas destroyed several installations in the Zionist settlement. The enemy admitted the operation, but, as usual, claimed that only four Zionists were wounded.

Combat Group Plants Charges in Jerusalem

JN161859 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] A military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command has stated the following:

In accordance with instructions, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland planted timed incendiary explosive charges inside a Zionist bus station in the occupied city of Jerusalem. The explosion today caused heavy damage to the station, burned several Zionist buses, and killed or wounded several Zionist personnel.

Huge forces from the Zionist army and the so-called border guards immediately cordoned off the operation area, closed off streets leading to it, launched large-scale search campaigns, and arrested a number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of having connection with the operation. Despite these Zionist measures, our combat group returned safely to base. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command

Israeli Army Camp Struck by Attack 16 Feb

JN171001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (INA) — A Leading Palestinian sourcehas told the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* that Palestinian resistance forces last night attacked an Israeli Army camp near Tel Aviv and for the first time used rockets used by the Israeli Army.

The source added that this attack resulted in heavy losses in the (Serfin 36) camp, which is located to the north of Netanya. The source said that four armored vehicles and three military trucks were destroyed and that important areas in the camp were set ablaze. The source explained that the rockets used in the attack were of the antiarmor (Lowel) type.

Tel Aviv announced yesterday that two rockets of this type were found deployed on a hill near the (Serfin 36) camp.

KUWAIT

National Assembly Closed Session Discusses Gulf War

LD180933 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 18 (KUNA) — Kuwait's National Assembly went into a closed session Tuesday to discuss the serious escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, an official source said. The closed session was called by the government as to outline to the parliamentarians details of "grave developments" of the Gulf war, according to the source. The session first was public then deputies and ministers went behind closed doors at the request of Acting Premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

Shaykh Sabah, accompanied by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, visited Damascus and Baghdad in the past two days and the two Gulf officials discussed the war flareup with the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq.

Council of Ministers Holds Regular Session

LD161817 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpt] This morning the Council of Ministers held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship of acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir. Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid stated that the council began its meeting by discussing the political issues in the light of the Iraq-Iran war developments and their consequences on the region's countries in general. The council reviewed the information coming from the Kuwaiti embassies abroad on the subject of the war. He added that the council was briefed by the acting prime minister and minister of foreign affairs on the visit by Libyan Minister of Agriculture Abu Zayd Durdah to the country which was aimed at learning about Kuwait's posture regarding the developments in the Iraq-Iran war; he was told about Kuwait's declared position which calls for an end to the war to spare the blood of Muslims and enable the countries of the region to live peacefully away from wars and their evils.

Holds Emergency Session

LD171325 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1254 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Feb (KUNA) — The Council of Ministers held an emergency meeting today under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid, in a statement to KUNA after the meeting, which was held at the Foreign Ministry, said that the council discussed the development of the situation in the region, results of the contacts made by Shaykhs Sabah al-Ahmad with officials in fraternal countries, especially his visit to Damascus yesterday with the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and their meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', in the framework of implementing the resolutions of the Arab seven-member committee which has been charged with the task of following up the developments of the Iraq-Iran war. Rashid said the council also discussed a number of issues concerning the National Assembly.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets Libyan Envoy

LD161045 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0936 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Kuwait 16 Feb (KUNA) — Today in Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and minister of agriculture, who is at present visiting Kuwait.

A responsible source told KUNA that the discussions were about bilateral relations and the developments in the Arab Gulf region.

Mr Durdah visited Tehran last week as an envoy of the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Interviewed on Economy, Policies, Issues

GF141330 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Feb 86 p 17

[Interview with Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, by *AL-SIYASAH* correspondent Nabil Ghazzawi in Aden — date not given]

[Text] Ghazzawi: It is known that your country began to implement the Third 5-Year Plan for economic and social developments. Will you continue to implement the same plan or will you be forced to make modifications to it because of the destruction and devastation which have resulted from the recent sad events? What support is required from fraternal and friendly countries?

Al-'Attas: As you know, during its 21st session, the Supreme People's Council approved a number of economic and financial plans and programs for 1986, including the 1986 plan for economic and social development within the framework of trends and preparations aimed at removing the effects of the bloody 13 January conspiracy led by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his adventurous clique. The Supreme People's Council requested the government to review the Third 5-Year Plan for economic and social developments from 1986 to 1990 so that it will accomodate the tasks concerning the remedying of the damage caused to the national economy through this conspiracy.

After we have succeeded in establishing security and stability and returning life to normal in all fields, we are paying a great deal of attention to the mobilization of all our energies and capabilities and allocating them to rebuild what the conspirers destroyed. Concerning aid required from fraternal and friendly countries, we welcome any support which may help us remove the effects of the painful events. Indeed, some humanitarian and medical aid has been received from socialist and friendly countries and international organizations.

Ghazzawi: As the new chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, do you have any hints on the foreign and internal policies of your country?

Al-'Attas: No. There is no change in our foreign and internal policies. We shall continue the trend of our party policy approved in its documents both internally and externally.

Ghazzawi: There are rumors that you represent the extremist left wing in the YSP. What is your view and reaction to that?

Al-'Attas: In a previous interview with representatives from international press and news agencies who visited our country after the events, I referred to the fact that the oppositionist circles — who are against our Yemeni people — are behind these rumors. In fact, we are patriotic and progressive and love our people and country. We are working for the progress and prosperity of our country. We desire peace and look forward to seeing peace, stability, and a secure life prevail in our region and on our planet.

Ghazzawi: Reports say that there are Soviet bases in some parts of the PDRY, especially Soqotra Island. How do you interpret that?

Al-'Attas: There is no truth in that at all. We are totally prepared to make known the situation on this island to international journalists and affirm that it does not contain these assumed Soviet bases.

Ghazzawi: What is your view about the recent U.S. statements that the U.S. Administration will recognize the current and new leadership in the PDRY?

Al-'Attas: Relations between us and the United States do not exist.It does not concern us whether or not the United States recognizes the current leadership, which has been elected by our party and the Supreme People's Council. Concerning our stand vis-a-vis the United States, it is constant and will not change until the United States changes its stands against our just Arab causes and Arab people.

Ghazzawi: If the previous leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad resorts to sabotage work to undermine stability, what measures might you take to put an end to such work?

Al-'Attas: 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has no place in our country any longer and will not have . We are confident that we are capable of maintaining security and stability in our country and confronting anybody who might fancy tampering with that security and stability.

Ghazzawi: This is your first interview as the state leader following your election. Will the PDRY internal and external policies, including those concerning relations with neighboring countries, remain unchanged? Do you have any new trends in this regard?

Al-'Attas: We have said time and again that we will continue to bolster fraternal relations with our brothers in the neighboring countries — Saudi Arabia, Oman, and all the GCC states — based on the principles of neighborliness, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and fruitful cooperation, to contribute toward the strengthening of security and stability in our region and achieve progress and prosperity for our people. We are determined to continue along this path, which was chosen through our party's collective desire.

Ghazzawi: There have been some fears and rumors that you do not wish to strengthen fraternal relations and cooperation with the northern part of Yemen in order to reunite Yemen and bolster relations with Arab countries.

Al-'Attas: Again, these are rumors based on prejudice and have nothing to do with facts. We view our unity relations with the northern part of the homeland as a national issue connected with the fate of our people and their great hope to reunite the Yemeni territory and people. Along this path, we will continue to exert unity efforts with our brothers in the northern part headed by brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. We will exert efforts to fulfill more unity plans and activate the existing unity formations: (the Supreme Yemeni Council, the joint ministerial committee, the unity committees, the technical committees, and the joint economic institutions). We are eager to implement all unity agreements signed by the leaderships of the two parts to achieve Yemeni unity on peaceful and democratic bases. Concerning our relations with fraternal Arab countries, we are anxious to continue to bolster and develop them based on fraternal cooperation, mutual respect, and Arab solidarity against imperialism and Zionism.

Ghazzawi: What is the PDRY's stand under the new leadership on the Iraq-Iran war? Are there Yemeni efforts being aimed at putting an end to this war in the region?

Al-'Attas: The PDRY's stand toward the Iraq-Iran war will remain constant. We do not support this war. We are against it because it does not at all serve the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian people; rather, it serves the interests of imperialism. This war has caused much damage to the interests of the two nations and resulted in great material and human losses in both countries. There are no justifications at all for the two neighboring nations to suffer such social and economic losses. We continually call for a return to the wisdom of dialogue to solve the two countries' problems and stop the war because it cannot produce results. Correct dialogue may produce results for the two countries. We support all efforts aimed at putting an end to the bloody war between the Iraqi and Iranian nations. We will encourage any such efforts and really hope that the two leaderships will revert to the logic and wisdom of dialogue to stop the bloodshed and war which has continued for too long and caused much damage.

Ghazzawi: What is the PDRY's stand on the Iranian refusal to stop this war through the efforts exerted by various international and Islamic organizations, Arab leaders, and nonaligned countries?

Al-'Attas: More efforts must be made to produce negotiations between the two sides. The intensification of such efforts must make the two sides come to an agreement.

Chairman Al-'Attas Issues Budget-Related Laws

GF151728 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, today issued three Supreme People's Council laws. The first Article of law No 2 for 1986 ratifies the yearly plan for economic and social development for 1986. The second article of the law states that the features and aims of the plan may not be amended except with the approval of the Supreme People's Council. The third Article of the law states that the ministers, chairmen of the central organs, and chairmen of the executive bureaus of the local people's councils are responsible, each in his field, for taking the necessary action to implement the law.

The sixth Article of the law states that it will be effective as of 1 January 1986. The last Article of the law states that the law shall be published in the official gazette.

The first Article of law No 3 for 1986 ratifies the general budget for the current year, 1986. The ninth Article of law states that the minister of finance must issue a general authorization to the comptroller general to use the state's funds during this current year, which ends on 31 December 1986. The 20th Article of the law holds the Ministry of Finance and its branches in the governorates responsible for implementing the general budget which is accredited by this law. The Article also charges the minister of finance with issuing all the decisions, directions, regulations, and rules which regulate expenditure of public funds and property. The 22d Article of the law authorizes the Council of Ministers to handle the damage caused by the abortive coup attempt, provide the required funds for this purpose, and take the necessary action to this effect on the condition that the funds are added, in the form of expenses, to the general budget of the current year, 1986. The last Article states that the subject law is effective as of 1 January 1986 and that it shall be published in the official gazette.

The chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium also issued law No 4 for 1986 concerning the estimated budgets of the state's departments for the current year, 1986. The fifth Article of the law entrusts the ministers, each in his field, with authorizing the directors of the state's departments to use funds within the accredited appropriations to each of them. The law is effective as of 1 January 1986 and shall be published in the official gazette.

YSP Official, Soviet Adviser Discuss Economic Ties

GF171314 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] This morning Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, received Comrade (Benar Kaprov), economic adviser at the Soviet Embassy in Aden. During this meeting they discussed aspects of cooperation existing between the YSP and the CPSU and the progress of work on economic projects carried out by the Soviet side in our country and the necessary steps to intensify work on existing projects for the purpose of overcoming the economic effects of the 13 January plot.

Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah expressed his high appreciation for the aid offered by the friendly Soviet Union to our country. On his part the Soviet economic adviser reiterated the keenness of the Soviet Union to consolidate the existing economic relations and to offer various aid to the PDRY.

Secretary General Departs for Moscow

GF141917 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, left Aden tonight for Moscow. He will participate in the 27th CPSU Congress, which is scheduled to be held this month, at the invitation of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

He was seen off at the airport by brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, a number of brother members of the YSP Political Bureau and YSP Central Committee, ministers, and YSP and Armed Forces officials.

Foreign Minister Receives Libyan Envoy

GF151454 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, met in his office today with the brother Libyan charge d'affaires in Aden.

During the meeting, the brother foreign minister explained to the Libyan charge d'affaires the unsuccessful coupist conspiracy engineered by the traitor 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and which was aimed at the physical liquidation of the historical leadership of the YSP and state cadres. He noted that the masses of our people and their security and military institutions have rallied round the party in order to confront this abortive attempt.

The brother foreign minister extolled the stand adopted by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, regarding the painful events resulting from the unsuccessful coupist attempt carried out by the schemer 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. He emphasized the development of relations between the two fraternal peoples. The brother foreign minister expressed the PDRY people's solidarity with and support for the fraternal Libyan people vis-a-vis all the attempts and moves carried out by the United States. The brother Libyan charge d'ffaires affirmed the support of the Socialist people's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for our people. He affirmed that the PDRY people are capable of surmounting difficulties and all the forms of conspiracy which are plotted by imperialist and reactionary forces.

Foreign Minister Receives Ethiopian Envoy

GF161308 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, received at his office this morning Comrade Resema Belai, Ethiopian ambassador in Aden. Relations between the two countries and ways to develop them were discussed during the meeting.

The brother minister of foreign affairs affirmed the keenness of the YSP and the government and people in the PDRY to bolster and deepen the strong relations between the two friendly peoples and countries.

On his part the comrade ambassador affirmed the keenness of the Ethiopian leadership, headed by Comrade Mengistu Haile-Mariam, to bolster the struggle relations between the YSP and the Ethiopian Workers' Party, and the position of Ethiopian party and government in support of the Yemeni people and their progress and prosperity.

Official Calls for Action From Housing Ministry

GF151347 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, made an inspection visit today to the Ministry of Installations and Housing. He was received there by Brother Muhammad Ahmad Salman member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of installations and housing, and a number of senior officials at the ministry.

Brother Salim Salih Muhammad viewed the work at the ministry and the steps being followed in remedying the effects of the unsuccessful 13 January coupist attempt. He asserted the importance of extending care to the families of martyrs and to provide suitable housing for them, and also for the citizens whose houses were damaged by the indiscriminate shelling carried out by the clique of conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

He urged the ministry's employees to make continuous and devoted efforts to implement these steps. He called on the citizens to make the utmost efforts and to organize initiatives and to cooperate with the ministry's organs to repair the houses and facilities that have been damaged so that the capital's beautiful and bright appearance is restored in the next few weeks in accordance with the plan approved by the Ministry of Installations and Housing.

YSP Official Chairs Security Meeting in Aden

GF160553 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Sayf Sayil Khalid, member of the YSP Central Committee, first secretary of the YSP organization committee in Aden Governorate, tonight chaired an expanded meeting of the members and candidate members of the State Security Directorate. The meeting was devoted to reading and discussing the directive issued by the second extraordinary session of the YSP Central Committee.

At the beginning of the meeting, those attending observed a minute of mourning for the souls of the heroes who were martyred during the valiant confrontation of the unsuccessful 13 January conspiracy.

Through their remarks and questions on the directive, the members and candidate members expressed their strong desire to consolidate the YSP's unity and cohesiveness, to adhere to the program documents, and to strengthen the unity of the domestic front as a vital condition for confronting all of the conspiracies of the class enemies.

Responding to the remarks and questions of the members and the candidate members, Brother Sayf Sayil stressed the importance of learning lessons from the unsuccessful coupist plot instigated by the agent schemer 'Ali Nasir and his clique. He stressed the importance of raising the level of security vigilance in the ranks of all party members in the security and defense organs, and also the continuous struggle against all appearances that contradict YSP policy.

He greeted the role played by YSP strugglers in the state security and the other military establishments in defending party and constitutional legitimacy and the revolution's gains.

Interior Minister on Security, Use of 'Force'

GF171608 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Brigadier General, Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the YSP Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of interior, has affirmed that life has returned to normal in the country following the attempt by plotter 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique to disturb security and stability in our country. In a press statement the brother interior minister said that any violation of security should be responded to by force. We do not believe that this response is itself a security violation, but rather a return to constitutional legitimacy and the application of laws. He continued saying: Any attempt to undermine security, order, and tranquillity should be faced by our people by force. In my view this is not a defect but this conforms with constitutional legitimacy. He added that the attorney general's offices, the people's police centers, and the judiciary are performing their duties and are implementing their authorities provided for in the Constitution and in the criminal procedures regulations. He spoke about the measures being taken within the limits of the country's Constitution and law and about the organization of the process of returning to any citizen his property which was lost or damaged during the incidents.

Brother Salih Munassar al-Siyayli warned the citizens against the rumors and chaos which the enemy is circulating from time to time through a radio station outside the Republic in an attempt to make the citizens live in the illusion that the enemy is trying to gather forces or men to disturb security. He referred to a false report carried by the enemy radio station indicating that intriguing 'Ali Nasir Muhammad had visited Lahij Governorate. He had not entered it even before the incidents.

Brother Al-Siyayli called on the citizens to support the security organs in maintaining law and order and to report to the nearest police station any extraordinary practices that contradict the law and regulations and any wrong practices inside the society or on the street, even if these practices come from elements conducting searches and investigations, state security or army personnel, or from any party member or citizen.

He affirmed that respect for the law is a great step toward maintaining it. He urged the citizens to report any practices such as bribes and corruption.

The brother deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of interior said that some people who unconsciously participated in the incidents and who found themselves forced to side with the enemy are considered to be misled citizens according to the resolutions of the YSP Central Committee and its Political Bureau.

He said that this applies to those who are inside the country or outside it. He called on citizens who know them to contact them so that they can join the rehabilitation process in this country and so that they can maintain security and stability.

He added that we are not at odds with them, but with a group inside the party leadership which wanted to eliminate party legitimacy.

USSR Condolences on Isma'il Death Reported

GF141256 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Comrade Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, accompanied by the comrade chief of the Near Eastern Countries Department at the USSR Foreign Ministry, last night visited the PDRY Embassy in Moscow.

They offered the condolences of the CPSU and the USSR Government on the martyrdom of the founder of our party, the YSP, brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il.

They were received at the embassy by brother Muhammad 'Aqlan, acting PDRY charge d'affaires in the USSR.

'Sources:' PDRY Supreme Court Chairman Executed

GF151552 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 13 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Addis Ababa — Informed sources here have affirmed that Najib Shumayri, chairman of the PDRY Supreme Court, has been executed due to his refusal to cooperate with the new regime in Aden.

QATAR

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

GF171416 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Doha, 17 Feb (WAKH) — Mr Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, political director general of political affairs for Arab and African countries at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, arrived in Doha this morning on visit to Qatar, the first stop of a tour of a number of region countries. Upon arrival he was received by Ambassador Ahmad Jasim al-Mulla, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and Seyeed Baqer Sakha'i, Iranian ambassador in Doha.

YAR

Adviser to King of Morocco Arrives for Visit

Conveys Message

GF161308 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning received in his office at the presidential palace Brother Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco, who conveyed to the brother president a written message from his brother King Hassan II dealing with the current Arab and international situation and bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Ali Qasim al-Mu'ayyad, member of the Consultative Council; and Aboubaker Balouna, Moroccan ambassador in Sanaa.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF161937 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Brother Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco, left Sanaa today following a 2-day visit to our country. During his visit he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Foreign Minister Departs for UN Session

GF171418 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the Standing Committee, left for New York today to attend the UN Security Council emergency session which will be held upon the request of the Arab League seven-member committee. This committee is given the task of following up developments in the war between Iraq and Iran.

'Arafat in Cairo, Holds Talks With Mubarak, Others

Meets With Mubarak

NC131548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this evening. The meeting took place at President Mubarak's office in Al-'Urubah Palace.

In a statement upon his arrival, 'Arafat said that he is happy to visit Egypt. He asserted that he has come with an open heart to discuss everything that concerns the Palestinian revolution and people — their circumstances, problems, pains, and victories.

'Arafat stated that he was in Baghdad for 3 days, during which he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who gave him complete assurance on the military situation. He added that Iraq is confronting the huge Iranian offensive.

'Arafat said that he had informed the Iraqi president of the Palestinian people's support for the Iraqi Army and people against this attack because any aggression against Iraq is considered to be aggression against a part of the Arab nation.

Answering a question on the U.S. proposals on the Middle East issue, 'Arafat affirmed that he will discuss them with President Husni Mubarak.

Asked about the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, 'Arafat replied that they were suspended because of the U.S. intransigence and bias favoring Israel, which denies that 5 million Palestinians have the right to exist. In the UN Security Council, the United States used the veto three times in one month to protect Israel.

Answering a question on the PLO view of the call for an international conference and on whether he expects it to be held soon, 'Arafat said that this depends on the international situation. 'Arafat's final comment was that his talks with President Mubarak will begin this evening.

Mubarak on U.S. Comment, 'Arafat

NC131720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has declared that the U.S. State Department comment made on Monday is encouraging and "we must study it to see what can be done." In a statement after his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, President Mubarak added that the U.S. remark is a good step forward, but we must discuss it.

President Mubarak indicated that in his 30-minute meeting with 'Arafat they reviewed current events. The president said that he will meet with 'Arafat again on Saturday evening. Following the meeting, 'Arafat was asked what he expects from his visit to Cairo. He replied: "I expect it to be completely constructive."

'Abd al-Majid, 'Arafat Meet

NC141910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA) — Talks between Egypt and the PLO were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, led the Egyptian side and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat led the Palestinian side.

Egypt was represented by Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi, assistant foreign minister; Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, director of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Muhsin al-Du'aybi, director of the minister's office; Minister Plenipotentiary Salah Hindawi; and Counselor Mustafa al-Fiqi, President Mubarak's secretary of information.

On the Palestinian side, the discussion was attended by Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for political affairs; PNC members Sa'id Kamal, Nabil Sha'th, and Zuhdi al-Qudrah; and Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahmin.

Following the 2-hour meeting, Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that the timing of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt has great significance, particularly in light of the recent developments in the area and the contacts between Jordan and the PLO in Amman. The foreign minister added that the current discussions, which provide consultations and an exchange of views on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, demonstrate Egypt's willingness to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. Dr 'Abd al-Majid asserted that Egypt regards the Palestinian-Jordanian accord as a major basis for peace.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that in yesterday's meeting between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat, as well as in today's meeting at the Foreign Ministry, the PLO's contacts and the negotiations in Amman were discussed. Dr 'Abd al-Majid confirmed that President Mubarak will speak with 'Arafat tomorrow, Saturday. The foreign minister pointed out that the objective of these talks is to further the Palestinian issue and peace in the Middle East. He said that 'Arafat explained the present state of relations between the PLO and Jordan. The foreign minister added that Egypt considers these to be fundamental and wants them to strengthen.

Responding to a question, Dr 'Abd al-Majid replied: We do not believe that Jordanian-Palestinian ties are at an impasse. Further negotiation between Jordan and the PLO is still possible. Egypt is prepared to do all it can to aid this and soon there will be Egyptian-Jordanian exchanges. 'Arafat and Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi will hold talks tomorrow morning and President Mubarak will resume his discussions with 'Arafat tomorrow as well.

Tripartite Meeting Plans Denied

GF142006 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text]Cairo, 14 Feb(WAKH) — Well-informed sources in Cairo said today that Egypt has no intention so far to arrange for a tripartite summit meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ‘Arafat.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Cairo, these sources said that this meeting will not take place unless the basic conditions for the success of such a meeting are available, and until King Husayn and Yasir ‘Arafat agree on a suitable formula that brings their views closer.

On the other hand Egypt is holding intensive contacts with the United States des ned to demonstrate further flexibility that makes the PLO's r cognition of Resolution 242 conditional to the Palestinian right self-determination within the framework of a confederation w h Jordan.

aper Interviews ‘Arafat

NC142205 Cairo M NA in Arabic 2040 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 14 Fe (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ‘Ar at has declared that no one can strike off the Palestinian figure rom the Middle East equation, though the U.S. Administration, Israel, and certain Arabs throught that they could. In a statement to be published by *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* tomorrow, Saturday, ‘Arafat asks the United States not to look at things with one eye — the Israeli eye — but to use its own two eyes, not to protect the Palestinians, but to protect U.S. interests in the region.

‘Arafat adds that he is not dazzled by the United States, that the United States and Israel have been exerting terrific pressure on the PLO since 1982, most recently through the Israeli raid on Tunis last October, and that the Palestinian revolution is being financially, politically, and militarily persecuted everywhere. But, he says, "we are a rifle that is hard to break."

Yasir ‘Arafat refers to his recent talks with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman. He explains that King Husayn did not try to force the PLO to accept Security Council Resolution 242 but that he played the role of peacekeeper. He acted as a mediator between the Palestinians and the United States concerning the latter's inflexible demands and even participated in many efforts to resolve complicated issues.

‘Arafat says: King Husayn is a shrewd leader. He cannot enter alone into direct negotiations with Israel after the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242. ‘Arafat reiterates: I am confident of King Husayn's ability and wisdom and I know he would not make such a mistake. In conclusion, ‘Arafat criticizes the United States for using its veto at the Security Council against the Arab cause three times in 1 month.

Comment on U.S. Statement

NC142029 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir ‘Arafat has said that the statement issued by the U.S. State Department to the effect that the United States no longer considers the Palestinian issue a refugee problem is a repetition of President Reagan's 1982 initiative. In a statement to the BBC broadcast over London radio today, ‘Arafat said that what is new in the statement is that both Resolution 242 and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people complement each other. He denied reports that the Soviet Union is pressuring the PLO not to recognize Resolution 242.

Station Commentary

NC150615 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Usamah ‘Abd al-Ghani commentary: "Positive Progress for the Sake of the Palestinian Issue"]

[Text] Talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir ‘Arafat began in Cairo yesterday. In a statement afterward, President Mubarak said that the U.S. State Department comment on Monday regarding the Palestinian issue is encouraging and should be studied to see what could be done. He added that the U.S. statement is a good step forward, but it must be studied.

In its comment, the United States acknowledges not merely that the Palestinian issue is a problem of refugees. The statement points out that there must be no confusion between the Palestinians' legitimate rights and UN Resolution 242, which the PLO has declined to accept. These two points must be considered of equal weight. Egypt has stressed that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination represents an indispensable balance between the Palestinians' interests and Israel's right to exist. Egypt has welcomed the U.S. State Department's comment on the Palestinian issue, saying that this positive move will have a good influence on the parties concerned. This is particularly true since the U.S. stand will enable the United States to be an equal partner in the peace process.

Washington's acknowledgement that Resolution 242, which recognizes Israel's right to exist, does not fulfill the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people raises new hopes that the United States will stop favoring Israel. A reliable senior U.S. official in Washington has disclosed that the U.S. Government no longer objects to the amendment of Resolution 242, as called for by the PLO. The official, who is close to Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state and President Reagan's envoy to the Middle East, pointed out that the U.S. Government already received a formula on the PLO conception of Resolution 242.

We believe that the progress by Washington on the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the Middle East conflict, is as a consequence of the progress made in the Arab arena. Good examples of this progress are the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement, concluded in Amman, and the Cairo declaration, in which the PLO condemns terrorism and stresses armed struggle inside the occupied lands. For the PLO, the Amman agreement and the Cairo declaration are a natural result of peaceful objectives.

The U.S. role as a full partner in the peace process imposes commitments that must be kept if it is to safeguard its strategic interests in the region and to maintain international security.

Jordan and the PLO, in adhering to the fundamental principles of their joint strategy, must carefully note the Israeli treatment of the Palestinian people in the Arab occupied lands, where Israel is trying to establish faits accomplis. The price of these will be paid by the Palestinians. As a result, the vicious circle of violence, destruction, and terrorism will expand.

Qaddumi To Join 'Arafat

NC142057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 14 Feb (MENA) — The MENA correspondent in Tunis has learned that Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, will join PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo within the next few hours. 'Arafat arrived in Cairo yesterday, Thursday.

'Ali Lutfi Talks With 'Arafat

NC150912 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi received PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in his office this morning. 'Arafat congratulated Lutfi on his recovery following a recent surgical operation. 'Arafat was accompanied by his advisers Hani al-Hasan and Nabih Sha'th. Sa'id Kamal, PNC member; Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahmin, the PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qudrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo were also present at the meeting. This is the first official business conducted by Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi following his 3-week treatment for a slipped disc.

After the 90-minute meeting, Yasir 'Arafat said that the U.S. State Department's recent statement is considered a step forward when compared to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This statement, he noted, for the first time referred to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

During his meeting with Dr 'Ali Lutfi, he added, they had reviewed the Egyptian efforts to promote the peace process and achieve a comprehensive and permanent solution to the Middle East problem. They had also reviewed the joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to achieve peace with Egypt's help.

Dr Lutfi said that they had discussed recent developments pertaining to the Palestinian issue, as well as possibilities for achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region. They also reviewed the result of 'Arafat's recent meetings with King Husayn and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

Dr Lutfi pointed out that there is agreement between the Egyptian and Palestinian views with regard to the recent U.S. statement on recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people. This is considered to be a positive step in view of the fact that it contained a reference to U.S. recognition of these rights for the first time. Dr Lutfi expressed the hope that other postive steps will follow this statement, thereby making it possible to achieve a just peace through the 11 February 1985 Jordanian-Palestinian agreement or an international conference.

The PLO is demonstrating flexibility and a serious desire to achieve peace, Lutfi continued. He noted that at today's meeting 'Arafat had reviewed three formulas that already have been approved by the PLO's higher committee regarding UN Security Council Resolution 242. He said that 'Arafat has asked Egypt to submit these formulas to the United States. In conclusion, Dr Lutfi affirmed that he is generally optimistic about reaching a just and permanent peace for the Middle East in the near future.

'Rushdi Receives 'Arafat

NC151407 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) — Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today. They discussed a number of topics which pertain to Palestinians residing in Egypt. The interior minister assured the Palestinian leader that, based on its responsible policy with regard to the Palestinian people and their cause, Egypt seeks to make all facets of this residency easier.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Interviews 'Arafat

NC150753 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) — In an interview published in today's issue of the *AL-JUMHURIYAH* newspaper, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat refers to the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman. He affirms that during these talks the PLO submitted three formulas for its participation in an international conference on peace in the Middle East. All of these formulas are based on international law as embodied in the UN resolutions that uphold the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

It has been agreed with Jordan, 'Arafat adds, that talks with the United States on these formulas be continued. According to the newspaper, the three proposed formulas contain important principles. The first formula is UN Security Council Resolution No 242 accompanied by the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

The second formula involves the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state on their national soil.

The third formula contains the PLO's readiness to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 242 as part of the UN resolutions on the issue, provided there is a clear commitment to the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions by all parties concerned.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Resume Talks

NC161213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting at the Al-Qubbah Palace this afternoon. This is the second round of talks between the two leaders since 'Arafat's arrival in Cairo on Thursday. MENA has learned that Mubrak and 'Arafat will talk about the current efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, as well as the three formulas proposed by 'Arafat and approved by the PLO Executive Committee regarding recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 242. This comes in the wake of the positive U.S. step reflected by last week's U.S. State Department statement in which the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and their link to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 was noted for the first time.

'Arafat On Middle East Conference

NC170834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian issue must be settled by an international conference attended by the Soviet Union, the United States, the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the parties to the Middle East conflict, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. 'Arafat added that the Palestinian people's national rights, which are defined by UN resolutions, should be asserted in such a conference.

In an exclusive interview with the weekly *MAYU*, published today, 'Arafat denied that PLO participation in any talks is contingent on its approval of UN Security Council Resolution 242. He added that the PLO previously had been invited to enter into negotiations without this approval being a precondition.

Asked about the PLO approval of this resolution, 'Arafat replied: How can the Palestinian issue be resolved if the Palestinian people are excluded from the meeting? This is the twisted logic of the United States. To rectify this misconception, we must be admitted with no strings attached.

Yasir 'Arafat reiterated that Resolution 242 treats the Palestinian problem as one of refugees. He asserted: We deserve to be treated as a nation of 5 million people. 'Arafat warned the United States against following a pro-Israeli policy. Such a policy is destructive and jeopardizes U.S. interests in the area, he said.

Asked about the PLO stand on the recent Iranian offensive against Iraq, 'Arafat replied: We condemn the Iranian aggression. Iraq is an Arab country and we would not hesitate to condemn anyone who infringes on the sanctity of its territories. 'Arafat urged "shuttle" diplomacy between Iraq and Iran.

Commenting on his current visit to Egypt, 'Arafat remarked that since the Cairo declaration of November, many changes occurred on the Arab, Palestinian, and international levels. The Palestinian problem, he added, has regained its place as the critical factor in the Middle East equation.

In reply to another question, 'Arafat denied that the Palestinian leaders are too busy with internal affairs to focus on the main issue. He affirmed: Our internal affairs are those of the Palestinian people and our only concern. Finally, 'Arafat stated that he is not worried about the future of the Arab Middle East strategy. The current disintegration will pass, he said.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold 3d Talks

NC181052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for the third time. They conferred at Al-Tahirah Palace with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's adviser for political affairs.

Mubarak: Amman Talks To Resume

NC181144 Paris AFP in English 1141 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, Feb 18 (AFP) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today announced that Palestinian-Jordanian talks on a Middle East settlement, which broke down in Amman earlier this month, are to resume in the next few days in the Jordanian capital. Mr. Mubarak made the announcement after holding fresh talks here after the return of his chief political adviser from a fact-finding mission to Amman.

The adviser, 'Usamah al-Baz, met King Husayn and heard the Jordanian leader's views on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations. The talks between Mr. 'Arafat and President Mubarak were suspended for 36 hours pending his return.

Mubarak Addresses Rally in Al-Ghardaqah

NC152139 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Ghardaqah, the Red Sea, 15 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has repeated his warning that Arab disunity and division place Arab causes in jeopardy. This is particularly true of the Palestinian issue. He also noted that this kind of divisiveness makes Arab rights to the Golan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip vulnerable to faits accomplis.

The President was speaking at a public rally in Al-Ghardaqah after inspecting tourist facilities in the Red Sea Governorate. He said that Egypt, by virtue of its influence and international connections, would neither abandon nor hesitate to play its part in support of several Arab issues. To illustrate his point, the president referred to Egypt's efforts on behalf of the Palestinian cause.

The president noted that Egypt has taken on its historic responsibility in this area and that it wil not give up its status as a leader. He stressed that no power on earth can dissuade Egypt from playing its role. He asserted that Egypt will always remain the strongest and mightiest, thanks to its people, and to its past and present. President Mubarak added: We will never bow or deviate from the right course; empty slogans neither make a leader nor inspire heroism.

Commenting on current conditions in the Arab world, the president warned of the dangerous situation in Lebanon, the intervention there, and attempts to place the Lebanese people under tutelage. The president also made reference to the Iraq-Iran war and its impact on the region.

President Mubarak discussed the ongoing Tabah talks, pointing out that the Egyptian and Israeli delegations are making a detailed examination of the arrangements for and terms of arbitration.

In addition, President Mubarak made some remarks on Egypt's relations with the superpowers. He said these ties are based on mutual respect. Egypt, he declared, does not permit any infringement upon its sovereignty or any foreign bases on its soil.

Touching on Egypt's domestic situation, President Mubarak reiterated that corruption will not be covered up, wrongdoers will not be protected, and no leniency will be shown in unmasking the corrupt. He pointed out that the various departments of the Egyptian Government are searching out corruption and revealing its various forms, wherever they may be, in order to protect public funds and safeguard the people's rights.

President Mubarak declared that fighting and resisting corruption in Egypt do not mean that Egypt is a corrupt country, but rather that the government and people of Egypt are trying to purify themselves. In this context, the president asserted that Egypt is better and purer than many states in the region and in the world at large, where corruption has become commonplace.

President Mubarak inspected a number of new tourist sites in Al-Ghurdaqah today. He emphasized the importance of tourism for Egypt and the need for comprehensive development in this field. The president said that tourism has the potential to become a major source of national income, particularly at a time when oil prices are falling.

One of the new resorts that the president praised during his tour today was (Al-Jiftun) village, built on the Red Sea at a cost of $3 million. The village contains 242 rooms and has other recreational facilities, including a theater, athletic courts, and a school for scuba diving. Fishing trips and diving expeditions are also arranged here.

During his tour, President Mubarak opened a television transmission station in Al-Ghurduqah. The station will receive the Arab [Egyptian] Television beam from Cairo and relay it. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that once this station becomes operational, Egyptian television will reach Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and areas in the southern Sinai. Al-Sharif noted that the station will be further strengthened, and thus able to send its programs to more Arab countries. This will spare us the great expense involved in using Arabsat.

U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary in Cairo for Talks

Armitage Arrives

NC142043 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, and his delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Egypt. Armitage is scheduled to hold military talks with senior officials at the Egyptian Defense Ministry on means of bolstering military cooperation between Egypt and United States.

Meets Abu Ghazalah

NC151844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received Richard Armitage today. Armitage, the U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, is currently on a visit to Cairo. Their talks dealt with military cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Mubarak

NC160810 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, and his accompanying delegation at the Al-'Urubah Palace this morning. Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and Nicholas Veliotes, U.S. ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting. The U.S. official arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday on a visit scheduled to last several days.

Leaves Cairo for FRG

NC161312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1227 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) — Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, left Cairo for the FRG this afternoon following a 2-day visit during which he was received by President Mubarak. During his stay in Cairo, the U.S. official held talks with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, on ways to strengthen military cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Congressman Wilson

NC161247 Cairo MENA in English 1050 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 16 feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received this morning at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace member of the American Congress Charles Wilson. Emerging from the meeting Wilson told reporters that his talks with President Mubarak covered Egypto-American cooperation in general and economic cooperation in particular.

He added that the talks also dealt with American aid to Egypt, saying that he assured the president of exerting great effort to maintain this aid at the same level and to facilitate the repayment of the debts. Concluding the American Congresses member thanked the president for his efforts to restore peace in the area. The meeting was attended by US Ambassador here Nicholas Veliotes.

'Abd al-Majid Leaves for EEC Meeting in Luxembourg

NC160949 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Luxembourg this morning to attend the fourth session of the Cooperation Council between Egypt and the EEC, scheduled to begin tomorrow. In a predeparture statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed his hope that it would be possible to define the various trends in Egyptian-EEC relations for the future through these Cooperation Council meetings. He said that Yasir 'Arafat's current visit to Cairo has provided us with good information that we will pass on to the EEC.

Commenting on a statement by an official U.S. spokesman regarding the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, 'Abd al-Majid said that this announcement represents a positive stand and that Yasir 'Arafat views it as such. Linking UN Security Council Resolution 242 with the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, as mentioned by the official U.S. spokesman, will push the issue forward, he affirmed. Egypt has always demanded such a stance.

Ghali, Malagasy Foreign Minister Depart Cairo

NC140955 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Paris this morning. He is to take part in the French-speaking countries' summit, scheduled to be held in that city from 17 to 20 February.

Malagasy Foreign Minister Jean Bemananjara left Cairo on the same plane. During his official visit to Egypt, he signed an agreement for bilateral economic and trade cooperation. The agreement seeks to strengthen ties between the two countries in the economic and technical fields.

Jordanian Information Minister Departs

NC141643 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib left Cairo for Amman this afternoon, following a 2-day visit. During his stay, Minister al-Khatib met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The minister also signed the program for the Egyptian-Jordanian information cooperation agreement.

In a predeparture statement, the Jordanian minister stated that President Mubarak had asked him to convey greetings to King Husayn and the Jordanian people. Al-Khatib added that his talks with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who saw him off at the airport, were successful and achieved their objectives. The Jordanian minister pointed out that the provisions for the information agreement were immediately put into effect. New committees have already begun to consider its effect on radio, TV, news agencies, and training programs.

Sudanese Party Delegation Leaves for Khartoum

NC160550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA) — A delegation from the Sudanese Democratic Party, led by Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Ahmad, left Cairo for Khartoum tonight. The members of the delegation paid a 6-day visit to Egypt that included a meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr Ahmad al-Sayyid Ahmad said that Sudan's political parties are preparing for the elections. He noted that voter registration will continue until 23 February, when the actual campaigning will begin. Dr Ahmad added that Sudan's parties are determined to avoid the use of force in the election campaign in order to protect democracy. He dismissed as untrue reports from abroad that political parties had acquired weapons.

Dr Ahmad said that the nomination of candidates will open in March and that the actual voting will take place in the first week of April. The results will be announced within 7 days, and power will be handed over to the people on 26 April 1986.

Dr Ahmad stated that there is currently talk of forming a national government after the elections in order to allow the country to cope with its political, economic, and security problems. Such a government could be formed regardless of the outcome of the elections. He concluded by mentioning that the parties are currently preparing an interim charter on this.

Al-'Arabi Says Difficulties Remain in Tabah Talks

NC161008 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA) — The Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, led by Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department, returned to Cairo this morning. The delegation had attended meetings in the second round of talks to resolve the Tabah problem in accordance with international arbitration.

Ambassador al-'Arabi stated that discussion at the meetings in Herzliyya, Israel, had focused on formulating an arbitral compromise. An in-depth review of all provisions and points had taken place, he noted, but he could not say that the real difficulties were overcome. "There are still issues that need further negotiation," he affirmed.

Ambassador al-'Arabi added that the date for the next round of talks will be set in March. He said that members of the Egyptian delegation also had raised other issues related to bilateral ties with the Israeli officials, such as the Al-Sultan Monastery and the compensation committee. In conclusion, he stated that he and the Israeli defense minister had discussed the situation in the occupied territory and the importance of giving more rights to the Palestinians there. The delegation is scheduled to submit a thorough report on the results of the talks to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves For Moscow on 'Working Visit'

JN161518 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Moscow this afternoon on a 1-day working visit, after which he will leave for New York to participate in the UN Security Council discussion of the recent Iranian aggression against Iraqi territory.

INA has learned that Tariq 'Aziz will hold talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Monday, tomorrow morning.

During its Baghdad meeting on Wednesday, the 7-member Arab committee decided to send some Arab foreign ministers to some capitals of permanent Security Council member states for urgent contacts prior to the beginning of Security Council debates Tuesday, the day after tomorrow.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN171430 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1422 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here late this afternoon on a visit to Iraq. He was received by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives

JN171519 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here this evening. He was received by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister, and Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN171836 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, here tonight.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information and acting foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Saddam Husayn Receives Egypt's Yusuf Wali

JN171357 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali and his delegation here today. Dr Wali conveyed to President Saddam Husayn the greetings of President Husni Mubarak and the support of Egypt —government and people —for Iraq in its just war against the Iranian aggression. President Saddam Husayn asked Dr Wali to convey his greetings to President Mubarak, stressing the strength of the front and the Iraqi fighters' ability to repulse the Iranian aggression. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; and the president's secretary.

Egypt's Wali on Arab Stand

JN180920 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Feb (INA) — Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali has called for a unified Arab stand to confront the Iranian aggression. He warned some Arab countries against being deceived by the political maneuvers of the Tehran rulers. He stressed that the Iranian aggression seeks expansion in the Arab Gulf region.

In a statement to the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* published today, Wali said: The Iranian aggression constitutes a direct threat to Arab sovereignty. He said that the Gulf states should take this issue seriously. He added: We must not be deceived by the Iranian attempts to show intentions to establish temporary normal relations with some Arab states, because the aggression is a comprehensive offensive against the Arab Gulf.

On the Syrian and Libyan regimes' stand in support of the aggression, the Egyptian official pointed out that this conflict goes counter to the Arab masses' interests. He said that Al-Qadhdhafi's stands have always found a pan-Arab cover. However, he will not find a cover this time because the masses have exposed the true nature and objectives of the aggression.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister, who is currently on a visit to Baghdad, pointed out that this visit reflects official and popular Egyptian support for Iraq's confrontation of the aggression. He said: The message I delivered to President Saddam Husayn last night from President Husni Mubarak is a true embodiment of pan-Arab brotherhood.

Visits, Activities of President Saddam Husayn

Visits Air Force Command

JN161722 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has visited the command of the Air Force and the Air Defense. He acquainted himself with the effective role our Air Force is playing in providing support to our brave ground units in order to crush and destroy the enemy offensive and vital targets. He also listened to a detailed explanation about vital targets which have been destroyed by our hero eagles deep inside Iran.

The president leader also praised the unique and distinguished heroism shown by our Air Force —command and eagles —which has paralyzed enemy movement and inflicted heavy losses. President leader Saddam Husayn was received and seen off by the commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Returns to Baghdad

JN160638 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0628 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, President leader Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has returned to Baghdad from the battlefield. During his visit his excellency was acquainted with the progress of the battles against the Iranian enemy and the plans needed to confront the aggression. His ecellency issued his directives on these plans and reassured himself about the arrangements and measures that the military and field commands have made in the VII, III, and VI Army Corps sectors.

The fighters pledged to the president leader that they will score a decisive victory over the aggressors.

Greets Presidential Guards

JN161253 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1135 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement; greetings message from President Saddam Husayn to the Presidential Guards; no date given — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Among the believers are men who have been true to their convenant with God: Of them, some have completed their vows to the extreme, and some still wait. But they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

From Saddam Husayn to the righteous men, the men of difficult missions, the heroes in the Presidential Guards — commander and fighters. Men, you have restored the lost Arab nation's values to their owners, values which have made the commanders approach perils when the situation became gloomy and when the earnest concern of the men became manifested in its most pure forms in terms of their commitment to their land, honor, traditions, and the values of their people and nation. This is the Arabs' past and this is how Iraqis have acted throughout history. These characteristics disappeared from Arab traditions in the modern age until Almighty God granted the opportunities and the circumstances so that the Iraqis could restore what had been lost of these traditions to the Arabs and the Iraqis.

You have been in the vanguard in doing so. You are the Presidential Guards, protectors of the nation, principles, and the people, who have showed your courage in this great Al-Qadisiyah, not like the guards in the past.

Your people and your valiant Armed Forces, to which you belong, have known you in light of these attributes. From the premise of these yardsticks, your people and Armed Forces expect you to assume the position you deserve in every fierce battle in defense of honest values and our beloved land, the land of our fathers and forefathers, which has offered us shelter, warmth, and gifts. We will remain loyal to it, with God's assistance.

You have excelled in the Al-Qadisiyah battle and history will allot you a special place. In view of this battle between the enemy and Iraq west of Shatt al-'Arab, history and the land will remember you and will make the Iraqi people and even the children of future generations grateful for this epic. They will entrench it in their consciences as an epic that will never be erased from the minds of future generations by any future epic.

With the heroes of the Armed Forces, you have recorded on the path of bountiful sacrifice the epic of defending beautiful Basra and the epic of breaking the poisoned lances of the enemy which had occupied our land upon your chests and your consciences, which are replete with faith, readiness, and sacrifice. This will make the duty of purging the land of the remaining vile men possible and less difficult, God willing.

In my name and on behalf of the command and our great people, I send you special greetings and appreciation for you and your honest families.

God is great! Ignominy to the vile men!

[Signed] Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces

Praises Air Force Role

JN151647 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Staff Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has praised the heroic role of our Air Force, command, pilots, officers, and ranks, in the epic of defending great Iraq's territory, sovereignty, its people's achievements, its cultural heritage, and future generations.

His excellency especially praised the achievements of our Air Force in confronting the recent aggression on the Shatt al-'Arab, sector where our hawks carried out 1,336 raids in only 4 days against the enemy concentrations inside its territory and along its supply lines in order to extend efficient support to heroic forces during the advance to cleanse the land.

These efforts played a great role and had great results in inflicting grave losses on the aggressive forces and effectively contributed to frustrating the intentions of the aggressors and in turning their designs against them. These efforts also contributed to isolating and tightening the grip on the aggressive forces, initiating the destruction of these forces, and inflicting certain annihilation on them.

In appreciation of the leader president, God preserve him, for this role, his excellency instructed the celebration of a special day for our Air Force and its hawks following the complete purge of the enemy, God willing, as well as celebrating our other victorious forces.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

4,405 Iranians Killed at Majnun Oil Field

JN151852 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1831 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With reference to our Communique No 2,117 issued on 14 February, confirmed enemy losses in the battle to liberate and defend the Majnun oil field in the heroic III Army Corps sector amounted to 4,405 men killed. As for enemy wounded, they are many times this number. Our forces have watched an extraordinary enemy operation to evacuate its wounded.

This is the punishment for those who try to desecrate any inch of Iraqi soil. To hell with you and accursed be your fate. We have more destruction and death in store for the Khomeyniites, with God's help and the determination of men. The Iranian people will come to know —when this war has ended —the extent of the disaster to which the regime of the charlatans has pushed them. God be blessed, the best of supporters.

[Dated] 15 February 1986.

Commander on Oil Field Liberation

JN161840 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1725 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps, has announced that up to this morning the Iranian enemy sustained more losses on the eastern bank of the Majnun Island than those it sustained during its recent aggression on the fronts of three divisions belonging to this army corps.

In a statement to the INA team in the battlefield today, he said that the units of the Iranian 92d Division, especially the 2d Brigade of this division, in addition to other regular units which amount to more than a division, met with annihilation when they tried to carry out counterattacks on liberated land in the southern Majnun oil field. He asserted that the waves of reinforcement the enemy thrust toward the southern Majnun oil field did not reach our fortifications but were annihiliated in no-man's-land. The enemy could not approach our new positions all last night or even now, nor can the enemy reach them at all.

The staff major general commander of the III Army Corps said that the spiteful enemy did not manage to escape our fire even in their remote positions. He added that our brave units completely control the southern Majnun oil field after having liberated the last oil well in Tall Mahmud. He also said that the men's determination operation ['amaliyat 'azimat al-rijal] has placed the Iranian enemy in its most critical situation in the 2 years of its presence in the southern Majnun oil field.

News Team Describes Battle

JN141826 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] The INA team in the III Army Corps sector said today that all enemy forces on Majnun Island were completely wiped out in the men's determination operation ['amaliyat 'azimat al-rijal] which liberated the southern Majnun oil field. The team affirmed that the heroic men of our artillery and the brave knights of the helicopter gunships pursued the enemy remnants and reserves throughout the day opposite our valiant forces. It also affirmed that our brave fighters completely gained control over the positions they liberated and that they are full of self-confidence, loyalty to the dear homeland, and absolute readiness to defend it against rogue aggressors.

The mission described the men's determination operation as a total surprise to the Iranian enemy which sowed terror in its units. The team said that the battle waged by our brave men was exemplary, lightning-quick, and destructive.

Columns Advancing on Iranians in Al-Faw

JN152113 Baghdad voice of the Masses in Arabic
2052 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] INA has learned that the Armed Forces on the Al-Faw front are advancing in three columns to dislodge the enemy. The army command entrusted the direct command of the three columns 3 days ago to Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, assistant chief of staff for operations, and Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi, assistant chief of staff for training. Staff Lt Gen al-Fakhri is entrusted with leading the northern column, which was assigned the task of advancing against the enemy from the western bank of the Shatt al-'Arab in the direction of (Ma'amir) Al-Faw. Lt. Gen Sa'di al-Juburi is leading the central column, which is advancing on the enemy from the strategic road, and the coastal column, which is advancing on the enemy along the gulf coast from Al-Mamlahah toward Al-Faw.

Report on Umm al-Rasas Battles

JN161409 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — The Iranian offensive against the III Army Corps sectors last Sunday night had two objectives. The first was to confuse the Army Corps' commanders in the southern sector in order to prepare for attaining specific targets and the second was to gain footholds if they could. The Iranian forces started their offensive by carrying out a major attack on one of the formations of the 19th Division in the III Army Corps sector. However, the Iranian attacks were aborted and the successive human waves were crushed and the Iranian forces failed to achieve any of the above objectives, whether against Iraqi defenses or their advanced lines. The Iranian forces sustained heavy losses.

The Iranian forces also attacked two formations of the 30th Division's defense forces. However, they again failed to gain any foothold in the front lines, the area where the guard companies are located, or areas where the bulk of the force was stationed. In spite of the Iranian forces' large-scale thrust in the sectors of the 19th and 30th Divisions, the Iraqi forces did not sustain any losses worth mentioning and did not even lose a single martyr as has been confirmed by the commander of the III Army Corps.

On the front of the 11th Division, the Iranian forces made a large-scale offensive against three formations of this division, having the front lines and the forward companies as targets. However, the 45th Brigade heroically stood fast in the face of this offensive, as did the Al-Miqdad commando formation and units of the 47th Brigade with the exception of one company. The position of this company which the Iranian forces occupied is an area which forms a narrow delta marking the beginning of international borders from Shatt al-'Arab to the mainland and extends from (Kishk al-Basra) to a point meeting the mainland at (Talhat al-Aghawat).

The following day, an Iraqi plan was made to liberate this delta. The plan was formulated by the command of the Muhammad al-Rasim forces. At 1500 on the afternoon of that day, Iraqi artillery began to pour its fire on the position of the company which fell, on nearby Iranian lines, their supply routes, and their machinegun positions. A few moments later, the heroes of the 22d Brigade, in a heroic operation, stormed enemy positions in (Talhat al-Aghawar).

The next retiment began to carry out the first stage of the battle led by its commander, Colonel Farhan Muslih, who arrived with his regiment at the first line of defense in record time. After taking up the new position, the 3d Regiment advanced from that position led by its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Naji 'Abd al-Amir. The battles waged by the two regiments ended in the record time of no more than 45 minutes.

As soon as the battles ended and the 22d Brigade took up its positions in the liberated area under the command of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Ghalib 'Abdallah, the operation ended in favor of the Iraqi forces. A few minutes later, the II Army Corps commander, who was closely following the operation, made contact, announcing the seizure of the target and asking the command for permission to advance toward Al-Muhammarah [Khurramshahr].

But the Iranian attack in (Talhat al-Aghawat) was linked to the attack on the island of Umm al-Rasas, a large island in the middle of Shatt al-'Arab, whose importance lies in its location overlooking the Iranian coast near Al-Muhammarah, where Iranian forces are stationed. It also overlooks the Iraqi coast near (Talhat al-Aghawat) and (Khayyin) River.

The Iranian attack on the island of Umm al-Rasas took place last Sunday evening, but the Iraqi units realized 10 days before the attack that there was an Iranian plan to attack the island, as forward Iraqi observation posts noticed the unusual movement of vehicles, as well as the entrance of additional networks [as received] to the sector, indicating forthcoming hostile troop concentrations and movement.

Iraqi units on the island began to prepare the artillery to return fire. Units were placed on alert and at 2215 (1915 GMT] at night the Iranians began to move a number of gunboats from al-Karun and (Al-'Ara'd). As soon as these gunboats were in the middle of the river, the Iraqis opened fire and destroyed a large number of them. Although a large number of the gunboats was destroyed, they continued to move until Iranian units gained a small fothold between the positions of the 3d and 4th companies of the 2d Regiment, which limited the advance of the enemy and prevented expansion of the Iranian foothold.

During that time, the Iranians managed to gain another foothold near the previous one. However, this penetration was also contained.

The Iraqi forces continued battle with the two pockets. The Iranians managed to maintain the main attack and to gain a small foothold near the 1st Regiment of the 104th Brigade and a large foothold near the 3d Regiment. Meanwhile, the steadfast Iraqi brigade on the island managed to thrust two reserve companies into the area separating the 2d and 3d Regiments. One of these companies managed to cross while the other blew up the bridge linking Umm al-Rasas and Umm al-Jababi Island, which lies before Umm al-Rasas on the western bank of Shatt al-'Arab. The Iranian forces were trying to reach the bridgehead, but the bridge defense force fought heroically from position to position and did not allow the Iranians to reach it.

At 0730 on Monday the Iranians managed to reach the western road of Umm al-Rasas, where there were only Iraqi observation posts which could not prevent the enemy from advancing toward the units' headquarters in an attempt to occupy them. Fierce fighting ensued and the most magnificent feats of Iraqi heroism were demonstrated in the grave losses they inflicted on the Iranian forces.

The clashes continued until 1600. The regiments remained steadfast in their positions despite enemy footholds. The situation remained static until the 15th Division's reserves intervened when the 66th Brigade's special forces, led by Staff Brigadier General Bariq 'Abdallah al-Haj Hantah, arrived and managed to recover the western road of Umm al-Rasas Island and purge the pockets which had gained footholds on parts of the island.

The Iranian forces which attacked the island are estimated at four brigades with very specialized equipment, beginning with boats and rafts and ending with life rafts and wetsuits, as well as other equipment. Moreover, the Iranian forces tried to erect a bridge linking their units and the island in an attempt to thrust a number of tanks and military hardware across. However, Iraqi units also managed to destroy this attempt.

At 1600 on Tuesday the 66th Brigade's special forces arrived at the sector. Immediately after arriving, Staff Brig Gen Bariq 'Abdallah asked to view the infantry area without major reconnaisance operations, which are a normal military requirement, and the brigade began mopping-up operations. The brigade commander was in the first boat which crossed toward Umm al Rasas Island. A fierce battle ensued between the brigade units and the Iranian forces without artillery backing, because the Iraqi and Iranian forces were so close that only a few meters separated defenders from attackers.

During the fierce fighting, the Iraqi soldiers managed to take the Iranians by surprise in several firing and light arms positions before the Iranian soldiers were able to even rise to their feet. After occupying the liberated positions, the brigade's special forces began to develop the attack toward the frontline. The left flank of the island was taken with the enemy unable to do anything because it began to feel that the attack was coming from all directions.

Thus, the situation stabilized in favor of the Iraqi forces on Umm al-Rasas Island, which the Iranians had tried to occupy in order to control Iraqi territory.

Iranians Try To Break Siege

JN151539 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1504 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Basra, 15 Feb (INA) — The INA team in the southern sector says that the Iranians are desperately trying to break the siege around their forces north of the Arab Gulf. The team added that the Iranian forces are trying to send gunboats, missile boats, and boats carrying personnel and equipment to help their units, which are at the mercy of the Iraqi forces.

The team says that the difficult situation of the Iranian forces has prompted their command to send these boats, which are being hit [word indistinct] one group after another, pointing out that Iraqi planes destroyed and sank 19 Iranian naval targets in Gulf waters today.

The team describes these successful Iraqi strikes as a practical refutation of Iranian allegations that Iran is controlling the Gulf waters, adding that the Iraqi naval and air forces are completely in control of the area. able to spot and destroy any Iranian naval target.

Planes Raid Khark Island

JN152120 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2054 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While directing continuous blows to enemy forces, our Air Force is also intensifying its strikes at the enemy's vital installations. At 2230 [1930 GMT] today, our planes carried out a new raid against Khark Island, hitting their targets and setting them ablaze. Our pilots returned to the homeland with their planes, safe in God's care.

[Dated] 15 February 1986.

Commander Reports Counteroffensive

JN142037 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2014 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces and commander of the northern column in the VII Army Corps sector, has stated that on the directive of President leader Saddam Husayn, our units have started their counteroffensive against the forces of the frustrated enemy. In an interview with the Baghdad radio team, he said that our units began dealing crushing blows to the heads of the Khomeyniite rogues at 1200 [0900 GMT] yesterday in implementation of our triumphant leader's statement that the aggression is stillborn. Lt Gen Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri pledged to President leader Saddam Husayn and our struggling masses in the name of the fighters of the northern column that the empty heads which thought that they could harm Iraq will be crushed. He added: From these forward trenches, we affirm that the only choice we have is to wipe out the riffraff and that we will soon bring good tidings of victory to our great people, God willing.

VII Army Forces 'In Full Control'

JN162117 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2025 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] With rare courage and relentless determination, our hero fighters continued to battle the spiteful enemy forces in the VII Army Corps sector. Our artillery also continued to support our forces in pounding the collapsing enemy remnants.

The Baghdad Radio and Voice of the Masses team met in a forward position at the front with the commander of the 'Abd al-Rahim force, one of the armored formations of the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim command forces. He stressed that this afternoon the heroic formation continued to pursue the remnants of the Iranian aggressors whom the regime of charlatanism and trickery drove into the crematorium of death.

The commander of the formation indicated that our forces are in full control of the situation, stressing that the Iranian regime only reaped disappointment, defeat, and disgrace from its desperate offensive. He also stressed that the aggressors' dens were stormed under the armor firepower support of the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim forces which facilitiated the advance and swoop upon the clique of evil and aggression. He vowed that his men will remain faithful soldiers to triumphant leader Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people.

Radio Team Report

JN160953 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0855 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Brother citizens, we now transmit a dispatch by our radio team from the battlefield: The radio team greets you once again from forward positions of the battle against the Iranian enemy. The team witnessed today's battles on all axes of the front and the brave feats scored by the courageous men of heroic formations which carried out several counteroffensives last night and this morning to attain the targets set for them by the field command of the northern axis under Staff Lieutenant General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri.

Our Air Force planes continued their combat sorties today to pound the strongholds of Khomeyniite evil and malice. The radio team located in forward positions sighted columns of smoke billowing from enemy positions, troop concentrations, and military equipment along the line selected by the operations command to be attacked and destroyed. Meanwhile, our helicopters played an effective, leading role in striking at the enemy columns sent in to reinforce its collapsing main force.

A field commander spoke with the radio team. He said that the enemy had begun to retreat and that our formations are continuing to advance toward their targets in order to destroy the enemy remnants and their defensive fortifications, which have also begun to collapse as a result of our able, courageous artillery's painful and fatal blows to the enemy's main thrust.

The radio team completed a successful tour with the heroic fighter, who is leading the northern column in the VII Army Corps sector. He briefed the team on developments as explained in the following recording:

[Begin recording] As far as today's battles are concerned, they confirm Iraq's ability to, sooner or later, annihilate the forces of the aggressors. We affirm that the inevitable end of this aggression will be the annihilation of the aggressive forces regardless of the price and sacrifices. Our great Iraq has always and will always stand firm on its principles. I affirm that the frontlines of our capable army — commanders, officers, and ranks — are fighting courageously, determined to annihilate the invading forces. I also affirm from this forward position that the pursuit of the enemy has begun, the collapse of the aggressors is in sight, and their certain, inevitable annihilation will come soon, God willing. We promise the leader and people that we will remain the faithful soldiers defending our dear land. May God grant us success. [end recording]

Ladis and gentlemen, you have been with the radio team in a forward position in the theater of operations in the VII Army Corps sector under the command of Staff Lt Gen Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri. Until we meet again, we greet you.

Report on 'Ammar ibn Yasir Forces

JN151123 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1000 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Radio dispatch from battlefront with Iran]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The radio team greets you from an advanced position at the heroic VII Army Corps sector and from the central axis. Yesterday evening and this morning our heroic forces continued their advance toward set targets, supported by field artillery and by our heroic fighter planes and helicopter gunships which poured their bombs on the enemy, transforming enemy vehicles into ashes.

Meanwhile, the ground forces fighting alongside the 'Ammar ibn Yasir forces continued to comb the destroyed areas with the aim of reaching the targets fixed by the VII Army Corps operations command. The radio team saw our armor from the heroic (Al-Tariq) command forces continue their advance to tear up the enemy. In the meantime, our rocket launchers continued to strike at the area in which the Iranian enemy is present and in the direction of the submerged lands, turning enemy personnel into dismembered bodies.

Hero fighter Staff Major General Rashshash al-Imarah, one of the field commanders in the central axis, told us that the counteroffensive mounted by the 'Ammar ibn Yasir forces command, and by the formations under its command and those fighting with it, is continuing with splendid coordination after direct contact among the forces was established. From an advanced position at the battlefront, the radio team interviewed the hero commander of the 'Ammar ibn Yasir forces, who said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After the spiteful Persian enemy had committed aggression against the heroic VII Army Corps sector, the 'Ammar ibn Yasir forces bravely confronted it in order to half its vile aggression.

Directives were issued by our leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to [words indistinct] at the initial stages until the massing of units is completed before our forces could advance and pounce on the enemy for the purpose of destroying it and expelling it from our borders.

As soon as the directives were issued, the soldiers of leader Saddam Husayn, the heroes of the 'Ammar ibn Yasir forces, and the units fighting with them, began their assault on the tyrant enemy in order to destroy its arrogance and haughtiness. They used all types of weapons to strike at the enemy which began to retreat before our forces. God willing, we will continue to have the high opinion of our triumphant leader and our great Iraqi people.

We will bring glad tidings of victory soon and will shatter the hopes of the so-called Arabs and those who support them in their efforts to harm our people's will and our revolution.

The 'Ammar ibn Yasir command and the formations fighting with them in the central axis will continue their heroic advance in accordance with a central, coordinated plan in order to put those whom the Iranian regime sent to the crematorium of death between the jaws of pincers which will spare no one.

From this place we reaffirm to the leader of our people and march, may God protect him, that the palm trees of Basra will continue to rise high and embrace the heads of our brave fighters. We pledge, my Lord, that Basra, with all its heritage, civilization, and truth, is a trust we will safeguard.

Be disgraced those who tried and are trying to desecrate its pure soil or its immortal shores. We have made a pledge that the Shatt al-'Arab waterway will continue to be pure and chaste. Victory will be on our side, God willing, because we are right and voices of peace. [end recording]

170 Combat Missions Reported

JN151125 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1052 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our gigantic Air Force today continued to harvest the heads of the aggressors, inflicting enormous losses which shook the very structure of the Iranian regime.

Our brave eagles continue to provide the strongest support to our ground forces as they continue their triumphant march with complete success toward their set targets, forging their path on the bodies of the criminal aggressors.

The number of combat missions since this morning and until 1300 [1000 GMT] has reached 170. During these missions, our eagles dropped a heavy downpour of incendiary bombs on defeated enemy remnants. God bless the brave eagles and all the heroes of our Armed Forces who are teaching the world how to fight.

[Dated] 15 February 1986

Iranian Naval Claims Denied

JN141523 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military source has refuted Iranian claims about Iranian naval activities in the northern part of the Arab Gulf.

The source told INA that these claims are completely untrue, and stressed that the Iraqi naval forces enjoy complete supremacy in this area. The Iraqi military source said that the Iranian naval forces did not dare approach this area. He said that the Iraqi Navy attacked the Iranian naval units in their hideouts on the Iranian coast.

Iranian Downing of Plane Denied

JN161843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — An authorized Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims of shooting down an Iraqi plane today. He told INA that all the Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base.

Television Shows Iranian Losses

JN141919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA) — A large number of Iranian soldiers' bodies and their destroyed weapons litter the Shatt al-'Arab forces sector.

This was shown in a film screened on Baghdad television this evening. The film also shows piles of dead bodies, including commandos and frogmen, covering large expanses of land.

Three Naval Targets Destroyed at Khowr-e Musa

JN151847 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1819 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our men, the defenders of the homeland, want to fill this day with heroic deeds, a day on which the Iranian ruling clique will mourn the death of its naval force.

This tyrant clique deserves more disasters and setbacks. While patrolling the Arab Gulf waters, our naval units spotted two enemy naval targets in Khowr-e Musa on the Iranian coast at 1850 [1550 GMT] today. Our naval men directed destructive blows at them. They exploded and sank in the gulf waters a few minutes later.

At 1910 today, our naval forces spotted a third target. Our brave naval men directed their missiles at it. It immediately exploded and sank.

Thus, our share of the Khomeyni Navy today was 27 targets.

We have always said that our Arab Gulf will remain taboo to our nation's enemies. God bless our brave naval men. Your people much appreciate your work.

[Dated] 15 February 1986.

Maritime Targets Reportedly Hit

JN160754 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0735 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraqis wake up every morning to a new victory that spreads joy, enhances our pride, brings the enemies' end closer, and reaffirms that our homeland, Iraq, will continue to be protected by its sons, who enjoy the upper hand in every field, proceeding on the course to defeat the aggressors. The aggressors will be forced to admit their final defeat no matter what they do.

The brave men of our naval force sighted two maritime targets near the Iranian coast, north of the Arab Gulf. The brave knights of our navy's Air Force rushed toward them and dealt them accurate blows at 0045 [2145 GMT on 15 February] today, destroying them. They sank in the Gulf waters. Our brave knights returned with their planes to base safe and triumphant.

Let glory be on your side, O brave men of our naval force and knights of the navy's Air Force. Let the rancorous die from exasperation. God will grant us victory.

[Dated] 16 February 1986

12 Iranian Gunboats Destroyed

JN161535 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1523 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merfiful, the compassionate. The honorable continue to liberate the land and destroy the tool of aggression, removing from their path all those midget creatures the Iranian regime is sending to the mill of death which is open for them on our lofty borders. Our valiant eagles managed to destroy 1 large gunboat and 11 small gunboats this evening.

Glory to you, lofty eagles, while you are riding the winds of glory to pour the wrath of God and your people down on the unjust clique.

[Dated] 16 February 1986

Commander on Air Force Battle Role

JN161708 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Air Force and the Defense Force, has affirmed that the Air Force's effective role has not yet begun to inflict just punishment on the Iranian regime and that the air battle is just beginning and will end with complete destruction of the rotten Khomeyniite dens.

In a statment published in the newspaper *AL-QADISIYAH* today, he said that the Air Force has vowed to provide support, destroy enemy units and their means of war, secure complete air superiority, and prevent the interference of the enemy air force, which has had no influence during the recent battle because of their fear of our power. Only four planes have appeared in the skies since the start of these battles. These four planes were downed. Asked if the enemy will move in other sectors, Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban said: We do not ignore this possibility and we are ready to repulse any movement on our borders, no matter how small. He also asserted that the Air Force will play a decisive, effective role in eradicating aggression, in purging our land of the filth of aggression, in destroying all enemy human and material potentials, and in striking targets deep inside Iraq, adding: Our punishment of the despotic clique will be very severe and we will chase their remnants to their last refuge.

1947 Born Reservists Demobilized

JN161501 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military source has described the decision announced today to demobilize a group of reservists born in 1947 as new evidence of the Iraqi Armed Forces' capability. The source told INA that the demobilization of these reservists indicates the size of Iraqi victories over the Iranian enemy.

In its issue today, the Defense Ministry's weekly *AL-YARMUK* said that it has been decided to demobilize reserve draftees born in 1947 who graduated from colleges and institutes where education lasts at least 3 years after preparatory school education, and who were drafted for reserve military service with those born in [word indistinct], 1952 and 1953. It is noteworthy that this is the third time that Iraq has demobilized groups of the reserve service of the Iraqi Armed Forces during the Iraq-Iran war.

Communique No 2,117 Issued

JN141811 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,117 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The heroic feats the great Iraqi people are recording through their valiant Armed Forces have become the focus of attention and a topic calling for the admiration of the world at large. The valiant Armed Forces are now reviving the nation's glory and reliving the age of heroism and sacrifice. Our triumphant forces continue to crush the enemy forces, inflicting on the Iranian regime the heaviest losses, breaking its backbone, and placing it in the worst situation it ever witnessed. The regime of charlatans will not succeed in checking its continued collapse. The Iraqis will continue to have their land and sovereignty. They will have the honor of having safeguarded the trust, foiled the treason, and dismembered the vilest designs and the lowliest evildoers. The victories our forces are recording on the ground, at sea, and in the air will remain a source of pride for the nation's present and future generations. As for our enemies, they have been doomed to humiliation and defeat as a reward for what they are perpetrating. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our triumphant forces in the VII Army Corps sector, all through last night, continued to crush all the enemy troop concentrations the Khomeyniites had massed to break the siege from their forces, inflicting losses on them that stupify the regime of charlatans. This morning our forces continued to advance toward their set targets, putting pressure on the enemy forces, forcing them to retreat, and liberating more land from the filth of the aggressors. Our forces, both during their heroic defense of the positions they reached and their courageous thrust toward their targets, succeeded in crushing thousands of enemy troops, whose bodies and what remained of their weapons littered the battlefield. The progress of battles in this sector and the feats that our forces achieved or are achieving confirm that the Khomeyniites are facing a gloomy fate whose inevitable outcome will be certain death for them.

2. Our valiant naval force imposes its complete supremacy in the Arab Gulf waters, and our brave naval units are patrolling these waters, defying the regime of charlatans and dealing deadly blows to the enemy naval units which have taken refuge in their hideouts. Our naval force carried out the following today:

a. At 2245 yesterday, our naval force dealt a destructive blow to a command ship in the Khowr-e Musa area. The ship was destroyed and sunk in Arab Gulf waters.

b. At 2355 yesterday, a blow was dealt to a missile gunboat near the Khowr-e Musa port, immediately sinking it.

c. At 0155 today, our naval force dealt another destructive blow to another missile gunboat in the Nowruz oil field, destroying and sinking it.

Our naval force continues to provide efficient support to our ground forces, which continue to advance on the area where the enemy is present. God bless the strong men of the navy. We thank him for his support.

3. The brave helicopter gunship knights continued their feats over the enemies' heads, inflicting heavy losses on them in 70 combat sorties in the VII Army Corps sector.

Our knights achieved the following:

a. A large number of enemy infantry troop concentrations were crushed.

b. One personnel carrier was destroyed.

c. Five vehicles were destroyed.

d. One four-barrwl machinegun was destroyed.

e. One machinegune was destoyed.

After carrying out all this, our brave helicopter gunship knights returned to base with their helicopters safe and triumphant, praise be to God.

4. Our heroic forces in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris continued to deal concentrated artillery blows to enemy positions opposite our units, destroying seven enemy weapons emplacements, five infantry positions, and one raft, whose occupants were killed, and setting one ammunition dump on fire.

5. Adding to our communique No 2,115 issued on 13 February 1986, the following enemy losses have been counted in the heroic Al-Miqdad forces sector in addition to what was mentioned in that communique:

a. Enemy losses in life: 1,101 killed. Thus, the total enemy losses sustained solely opposite the heroic III Army Corps sector since the beginning of the offensive on the night of 9 February amount to 3,079 killed. Later we will provide you with the enemy's losses in the battle to liberate the southern Majnun oil field.

b. The following military hardware was captured in addition to what was mentioned in our referent communique: 42 RPG-7 launchers, 8 60-mm mortars, two Doshka machineguns, 15 (BKC) machineguns, 2 (RBK] machineguns, and 164 Kalashnikovs.

c. Thrity-six enemy boats were destroyed in addition to what was mentioned in our referent communqiue.

6. The criminal enemy shelled Basra and its environs and Biyara with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 February 1986

Communique No 2,118 Issued

JN151822 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,118 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iraqis are realizing a victory that will be remembered throughout history against the barbarous ones, the symbols of backwardness, and the greedy and the rancorous ones, whom Zionism placed in the seats of government in Tehran. Humanity will be indebted to the great Iraqi people, led by President Saddam Husayn, for defending it against this plague and its evils. The nation's generations will remain proud of the achievements of the proud Iraqis on this day. They have revived the glory of a nation, preserved a chaste soil, scored great achievements, and defended all this with their persevering fighting and rare courage. With their heroism, our men will open the doors of progress, freedom, justice, and peace. The following is a roundup of operations for last night and today:

1. Our victorious columns in the VII Army Corps sector have continued their progress toward their set targets, accomplishing their tasks on schedule. With very effective support from the Air Force, artillery, and helicopter gunships, our forces reached their targets successfully and with obvious supremacy over the enemy forces, which suffered immense losses in men, equipment, weapons, and hardware and were forced to withdraw before our attacking forces. Thus, new territory was liberated from the filth of the lowly enemies.

2. From early morning today, the brave eagles of the air took to the skies of glory in order to inflict death and destruction on Iraq's enemies and lend good support and backing to their comrades-in-arms who were stepping on filthy Khomeyniite bodies. After 376 combat missions, our brave eagles destroyed enemy equipment, cut off enemy supplies, spread death among its ranks, and returned safely to the homeland.

3. O Iraqis. Your destructive fists are hammering the heads of the Khomeyniites in all battlefields. Both in the air and on the ground, our naval performance is bright with victory, and the performance of the rascal Khomeyniites is dark with defeat. Iraq is unsheathing its swords. Frustrated are those who thought that they could face Arab swords. Our enemy this time has tried his bad luck with its naval force after it had despaired of other forces. The enemy sent five naval targets toward Al-'Amiq port in our Arab Gulf. Our brave eagles pounced on them at 1400 today with the missiles of the truth, turning the five targets into piles of burning junk, sinking in the Gulf waters. Our eagles returned safely to base. Congratulations to our brave eagles.

4. By God, our arms will not tire. We will make them live in a hell on earth, similar to the hell they will stay in in the hereafter —greed prompted them to confront Iraq. After destroying the 5 enemy targets, they spotted another 19 targets in the waters of the Arab Gulf. They poured their missiles on them and crushed them to smithereens to be buried under the Gulf waters. Thus, the number of enemy maritime targets destroyed by our eagles this afternoon was 24. Having carried out this massacre of the frustrated enemy navy, our eagles returned to the homeland with their planes, carrying good tidings of victory. O God, you have promised to support the believers. You do not forsake your promise.

5. The proud men of the helicopters went to do their share in destroying the treacherous enemy. They pounced on it, dismembering its forces, inflicting casualties, and destroying enemy weapons and equipment, giving a good example in courage and boldness in 175 combat missions. God bless the helicopter gunship knights. The people highly appreciate their effort. All of our helicopters and those manning them returned safely to base.

6. Groups of enemy personnel attempted to advance toward our positions in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, but our strong men from the brave Al-Husayn forces confronted them and killed 170 of them. The rest fled. Your action is much appreciated, O heroic men of the Al-Husayn forces.

7. In the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, our splendid men of the Khalid Forces killed 96 enemy troops and destroyed eight infantry positions and four boats. They also destroyed 10 pieces of an enemy steel bridge. God bless the Khalid Forces' men.

8. With their well-known stupidity, the Iranian rulers imagined that their Air Force was still capable of combat. They sent two of their remaining planes to penetrate our international border in the VII Army Corps sector, little knowing that every inch of Iraqi territory is a burning fire under their feet. Our heroic air defensemen shot down both F-4's. One of them fell on our territory and the other was seen falling on the eastern bank of Shatt al-'Arab. God bless our air defensemen and all those who are recording honorable epics in pursuit of noble targets.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 February 1986.

Communique No 2,119 Issued

JN161818 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Communique No 2,119 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 February 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. These days are proud of what the men are accomplishing. They are proud because they are witnessing the triumph of truth over falsehood and the release of the torch of freedom which destroys darkness and opens the door wide to the winds of progress so they may sweep away every frail entity which tries in vain to cling to backwardness and outdated ambitions and grudges. The glorious Iraqis, under historic leadership, have laid down sound bases for a free and prosperous homeland. With matchless valor they shattered all the evil intentions of the Iranian rulers and their Zionist masters. Thus, the invaders were transformed into burnt corpses and defeated remnants of a shaky regime whose leaders are terrified of the evil consequences and wretched destiny. As for us, the land remains for its people, riches remain for their owners, and glory remains fluttering high in the sky of the homeland. This is the promise of God.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our valiant Armed Forces repulsed all desperate enemy attempts to approach our steadfast units last night. Today the men went to work and stormed enemy positions one after another, crushing the heads of the enemies. Our forces in the central column under the supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi, commanded by Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Jasim al-Hayan, and in the southern coastal column under the supervision of Staff Lt Gen Sa'di Tu'mah, commanded by Staff Major General Husayn Rashid, advanced and mounted two major and resolute offensives.

Each of the two columns managed to pave its way over the bodies of the disgraced enemy troops who retreated before our sacred march sustaining massive losses. The columns managed to liberate considerable areas and successfully performed the duties assigned to them in a time shorter than what was set for them. The encircled area in which the enemy is present was narrowed. The noose will be further tightened around the necks of the enemy hour after hour. Our Armed Forces are determined to make this battle the end of the Iranian regime. The day when the glad tidings will come is imminent. Blessed be your hands, O valiant men — commanders, officers, and other ranks. You have sent your enemy to a dismal abyss today. Move ahead to exterminate their remnants. This is within your power.

2. Our Air Force continues its daily attacks on the enemy. Our brave eagels are performing acts of valor and audacity which exceed all description. The aggressors' losses in men and equipment are escalating as a result of our air strikes. These strikes, as well as the efforts of our ground and naval forces, helped place the enemy before an ominous fate and definite catastrophe. Our Air Force carried out the following missions last night and today:

a. Our hero eagles insist on not allowing the enemy to take its breath day or night. Last night they surprised enemy units with a series of daring night raids, during which they inflicted massive losses on enemy personnel and its war machine. They then returned safely to base, praised be God.

b. Today our eagles continued in a persevering effort to swoop down on enemy concentrations, equipment, and weapons, inflicting massive losses and giving the best of support to our ground forces while advancing toward their targets in 376 combat missions. Our aircraft then returned safely to base under God's care.

c. While our aircraft were bombing Khomeyniite positions along the battlefronts, they continued to destroy enemy vital installations. Our eagles delivered an intensive strike on Khark Island installations at 2230 yesterday, setting their targets ablaze. They then returned safely to base.

d. At 1432 today our planes launched a violent raid on the Ganaveh pipeline intersection complex.

e. Our brave eagles managed to inflict the following losses on enemy maritime targets: Six maritime targets and 17 gunboats destroyed. After carrying out these tasks, our eagles returned safely to the homeland under God's care.

Congratulations on your efforts, O eagles of the air. Congratulations to you on the satisfaction and love of your people. Move ahead to send more thunderbolts of truth down upon the followers of falsehood.

3. They are the men and cavaliers of Iraq whenever the homeland called on them and whenever the fire got stronger. They have promised to turn this into an annihilative war if the enemy followed the path of evil and the free man's promise is a debt. Since the regime of the suspect despicable ones has opted for aggression, let it receive punishment in the form of death which harvests its remnants and destruction of all means of aggression. While thunderbolts are falling on the heads of Khomeyniites from both the ground and air, our loyal Navy men continue to pursue Khomeyniite naval targets to their dens. Last night they managed to achieve the following:

a. Our tough Navy men struck three maritime targets at 1850 and sank them.

b. At 2120 yesterday our Navy men destroyed and sank two other maritime targets.

c. At 0045 after midnight our helicopter cavaliers swooped down on two new maritime targets.

Glory is yours, O brave men of our Navy and hero cavaliers of the Navy Air Force.

4. The brave cavaliers of the helicopter gunships are making noble and very effective efforts in the epic of liberating the land by inflicting losses on the enemy, destroying its war machine, and supporting our ground units. The cavaliers today chopped off more Khomeyniite heads in 349 combat missions. They achieved the following:

a. At 1330 today an (Auxtable) helicopter gunship was shot down.

b. Several enemy infantry concentrations were wiped out.

c. Four tanks, nine vehicles, and two armored personnel carriers were destroyed.

d. Two antiaircraft guns and one tubular launcher were destroyed.

e. Two quadruple machineguns were destroyed.

They then returned safely to base, protected by God. God bless the strong and mighty Army aircraft, commanders, officers, and other ranks.

5. Enemy troops tried to approach our units in the III Army Corps sector east of al-Basrah. Our men from the heroic Al-Husayn and Al-Maqdad forces confronted them, inflicting the following losses:

a. Some 457 were killed and large numbers were wounded.

b. Five infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed.

c. Three vehicles and one excavator were destroyed.

b. One boat carrying personnel was destroyed and its occupants were killed.

e. Two infantry groups were destroyed.

f. A quantity of serviceable weaponry and equipment was seized.

6. At 1115 today our brave air defense men in the VII Army Corps sector fired at an enemy F-4 plane and shot it down in our territory. Glory to you, O men. You have promised and fulfilled your promise. May God guide your steps along the path of victory. He is the best supporter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 February 1986

Army Commander Provides Details

JN141342 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Message from Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps, to President Saddam Husayn, date not given — read by announcer]

[Text] To the pride of Arabs and Iraqis, builder of our progress and glories, Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God preserve him. From III Army Corps Commander Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid. In implementation of the pledge and allegiance to your excellency, the honorable people, and precious homeland, and with your resolution and the heroes' enthusiasm, the men of the III Army Corps have carried out a destructive and decisive attack to repulse the enemy remnants in the Majnun oil field, liberate new positions, and consoldiate control over them. The enemy units were destroyed and their weapons were captured. No enemy soldiers escaped death. Congratulations to our great leader, honorable people, and glorious nation for those brave men, the soldiers of the III Army Corps, who are the offspring of virtuous mothers. We, the III Army Corps fighters, send you a pledge of faithful men who fulfill their promies and keep their word. It is God who grants success.

[Signed] Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid, commander of the III Army Corps

Husayn-'Arafat Talks, New U.S. Stand Reported

PM131207 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 9 Feb 86 pp 74-75

[Sayyid Nassar report on dialogue between King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman "last week"]

[Excerpt] Addressing Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] at the beginning of their meeting, King Husayn said: Some reasonable progress has been achieved in Washington's attitude toward the peace process, the international conference, and PLO participation in it. To put it more clearly, the United States has now agreed to an international peace conference supervised by the United Nations and attended by all the parties concerned, namely Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, and the PLO as an independent party as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain, and the PRC.

To confirm the international character of the conference and its UN supervision, the UN secretary general will personally address the invitation to all these sides, headed by the PLO.

After a pause, the king added: That has been officially conveyed to us by the United States and we consider it to be a tangible success and improvement on its previous position rejecting the idea of an international conference and opposing the inviting of the PLO except under the invitation to Jordan.

King Husayn told Abu 'Ammar: All this depends on your approval of Resolutions 242 and 338. We are awaiting your reply so that we could pass it on to Washington which has been waiting for 4 weeks.

Abu 'Ammar asked: Will the Syrians attend the meeting?

The king replied: They will attend if such a meeting is held. Let us bear in mind that they have already accepted these two resolutions.

Abu 'Ammar then spoke, addressing himself to the Jordanian delegation headed by King Husayn. He said that he feared these guarantees were not sufficient. He added that he would have no objection to recognizing these two resolutions after he receives Washington's recognition of our right to self-determination and to our own independent state on our soil. Otherwise, Abu 'Ammar said, what is the point of my giving up the only card in my possession in return for uncertain or undocumented promise of an international conference to which I would be invited, a conference which, even if it is held, might fail and break up after the very first session without any significant gain for us but with the loss of the card we had in our possession. What would we do then?

Abu 'Ammar added: We need Israel's recognition of us more than Israel needs our recognition of it. Israel is the party occupying our territory and holding our people, not vice versa. We, however, have no objection to a balanced and simultaneous mutual recognition before everything else.

At this point King Husayn spoke about the circumstances of the Arab world and about Arab divisions and civil wars which are spreading in the region, pointing out that Israel is tightening its grip on our people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, and that it is on the verge of completing its absorption of Arab territories by building settlements everywhere, and is about to seize more strategic territory by occupying the Jordanian heights overlooking the old-and newly-occupied territory. Such circumstances, he said, dictate that we Arabs should accept, not reject, what is on offer now, and then Palestinian demands could be developed at the negotiating table in international meetings, not before.

He added: If you want more Arab pressure on Washington, we have already done our utmost and so has Egypt. What we are offering you now is the maximum we could achieve. It is sufficient that we have managed to convince Washington of the idea of an international conference, which it had rejected in the past, and also convinced it of the need to regard the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people without anybody sharing this legitimacy with it. This is recognized at Arab and international levels regardless of some opposition here and there by Palestinian or non-Palestinian sides and regardless of other incidents which tend to halt rather than escalate the peace process.

We also persuaded them to be content with a confederation between the Palestinian and Jordanian states. Before that they were only convinced of the idea of a federation.

Addressing 'Arafat, King Husayn said: You are requesting something else which I cannot promise that I can achieve, as much as I would like to. I fear that we have delayed our reply to Washington far too long. You were here in Amman 2 and 1/2 months ago. I fear that this delay, as usual, is not in our favor, particularly since our Arab situation does not encourage anyone to make any concessions to us. Our pressure weapons are too weak to scare anyone. While Israel grows stronger every day, we are getting weaker.

In reply 'Arafat asked King Husayn to appreciate his position as the head of the PLO and to bear in mind Syria's attitude toward him personally and his leadership of the PLO and also to consider the position of the Palestinian extremists who accuse him of weakness and leniency and who would consider his acceptance of these two resolution as an act of treason. He asked for more time during which Amman could put more pressure on Washington to persuade it to issue a statement on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to an independent state on the basis of which he would then be prepared to recognize the two resolutions in question. Abu 'Ammar said that he was sure that if pressure was exerted through Jordan, Egypt, and the Arab states which are friendly with the United States, coupled with pressure promised by the Soviet Union, the United States would respond to his requests.

King Husayn replied: I promise you that I will exert more efforts but I cannot say that we will achieve more. Let us not waste time. We have no objection if you want to use the influence of your Arab and non-Arab friends to put pressure on the United States provided that does not take too long.

It has been said that King Husayn did contact U.S. President Reagan on this matter but the U.S. President refused to grant the PLO requests. King Hassan II of Morocco did the same thing after Abu Iyad [Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf] arrived in Rabat from Amman with a message for the Moroccan monarch from Abu 'Ammar urging him to intercede with the U.S. President. Abu Iyad returned to Amman 24 hours later without any progress in the U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian requests.

At this point in the discussions King Husayn told Abu 'Ammar that he wanted a specific answer from him before his departure from Amman which could mean the usual absence of 2 months after which the talks would start all over again.

In what sounded like an ultimatum, King Husayn told Abu 'Ammar: If you leave Amman without a yes or no answer regarding Resolutions 242 and 338 we would consider that a rejection and a no. Each one of us would then have the right to choose his own way of restoring the usurped Arab rights.

Unless 'Arafat misunderstand his words "choose his own way," the king explained that under no circumstances would Jordan speak for or represent the Palestinians because this matter was settled once and for all at the 1974 Rabat summit conference. He also said that Jordan would not resort to unilateral solutions. This, he said, is a main basis of Jordan's political line.

The meeting ended and Abu 'Ammar went to one of the guest palaces in Jabal 'Amman where he was staying. He twice received the Soviet ambassador who told him that the Soviet leadership did not want him to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

King Husayn Receives Egypt's Al-Baz, Message

JN171434 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1421 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Amman, 17 Feb (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

He conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Dr al-Baz arrived in Amman earlier today.

Foreign Minister Leaves for London, New York

JN161300 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for London and New York today to continue contacts to hold an extraordinary UN Security Council session to discuss the recent Iranian aggression against fraternal Iraq in implementation of the decisions of the Arab 7-member followup committee adopted at its meeting in Baghdad last week.

Information Minister Returns From Cairo

JN141837 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib and his delegation returned to Amman this evening after a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he met with His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and a number of Egyptian officials.

Syrian Transportation Minister Arrives for Talks

JN171525 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Irbid, 17 Feb (PETRA) — Syrian Transportation Minister Eng Yusuf al-Ahmad arrived in Amman via Al-Ramtha today on a visit to Jordan lasting several days. During the visit he will hold talks with Transportation Minister Farhi 'Ubayd and will lead the Syrian side to meetings of the general assemblies of the Jordanian-Syrian land transportation company and the Syrian-Jordanian navigation company.

Upon arriving at the Al-Ramtha border post, Eng al-Ahmad told reporters that his visit to Jordan is to study the position of these two companies and promote their work in the interest of both fraternal countries, in addition to discussing issues of interest regarding transportation between both countries in various fields.

He said that Syrian-Jordanian relations in the transportation field have always been good, expressing his hope that bilateral fraternal meetings would result in promoting these relations in order to reach better levels.

Al-Jumayyil Leaves for Paris To Attend Conference

NC160835 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] President of the Republic Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has left for Paris to attend the Francophone conference at which he is scheduled to deliver a speech on current developments in Lebanon. It is possible that President al-Jumayyil will meet with French President Mitterrand, as well as with other heads of state participating in this conference. According to some press reports, the Lebanese president may go to the Vatican after the conference ends to meet with his holiness Pope John Paul II.

Maronite Deputies Meet With Junblatt, Birri

Talks With Junblatt

NC141852 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Following a meeting this afternoon with a delegation from the independent Maronite deputies' bloc, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt said: We reviewed the general situation in Lebanon. I believe that this group's contacts to find a way out of this mess are very useful.

Junblatt was asked: What is the way out, in your opinion? He answered: We are examining this with our brothers of the independent Maronite deputies' bloc. Asked if the bloc had come to him with specific proposals, he replied: Yes, but we are not revealing them.

In answer to a question on the calls for President Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation, Junblatt said: I have already stated my views on the president of the Republic.

Meet With Birri

NC151313 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1158 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Excerpts] A delegation from the independent Maronite deputies bloc, which is comprised of Deputies Butrus Harb, Auguste Bakhus, Ilyas al-Khazin, and Ilyas al-Hirawi, resumed its visits to Lebanese leaders today following yesterday's meeting with Minister Walid Junblatt. The delegation has now visited Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, in his home. They discussed current affairs and the ideas that delegation members have formed on the basis of what they have heard or what has been conveyed to them during previous meetings. The session was also attended by Dr Muhammad Baydun, chairman of the South Council.

After the meeting, Deputy Butrus Harb said that a comprehensive review of the current situation had been conducted with Minister Nabih Birri. It is hoped that this will contribute to finding a solution to the crisis. He affirmed that the president's resignation is not up to the independent Maronite deputies bloc.

During the meeting, he said, the delegation had raised several ideas that have been proposed by various parties. He added: We are among the parties who have proposed ideas. We are trying to get everyone to agree on a common position.

Asked whether the road is still blocKed, he replied: No roads are closed to proposed solutions to the crisis. We do not offer slogans or solutions to the people. All that we have are ideas. Our movement is opposed to military escalation, he stated. A military solution does not promote anyone's interest. Hope lies in a political solution.

Birri Comments on Meeting

NC151639 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Excerpt] After his meeting with a delegation from the independent Maronite deputies group, which ended at 1330, Nabih Birri declared: It used to be said that action brought blessings with it. I asked my brothers in the Maronite deputies group to follow through with their action, which is needed more in East Beirut than in the west. A number of proposals were made and answered. This meeting was our first, but it may not be our last. It is impossible to reach solutions in a single session, for those standing in the way of a settlement are still in power. We discussed the south and the need to take action to liberate it. We emphasized that the Maronite deputies must play the part required of them in this area, and prevent the Israelis from returning through an open door in East Beirut.

When asked what he sees as the way out of this fix, Birri responded: I still insist on my proposal, which states that the president's term must be shortened.

While answering another question, Birri pointed out: The problem does not lie with the Maronite deputies, nor is it one between Christians and Muslims. It is a national problem involving those who continue to count on Israel. For this reason, we encourage every Christian action that is nationalist and Arab in nature.

Birri, Qansuh See Military Confrontation Possibility

NC161505 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, has affirmed that a military confrontation will take place if all political outlets are closed. In an interview with *MONDAY MORNING* magazine, scheduled for publication tomorrow, Minister Birri said that President Amin al-Jumayyil is using various methods in an attempt to monopolize representation of East Beirut and its suburbs. He is also exerting pressure on the independent Maronite deputies bloc to stop talks with parties that support the Lebanese peace agreement.

Minister Birri stated that the call for the president's resignation must not divert our attention from the primary demand; namely, to end political sectarianism. The mistakes that have been made, he declared, have contributed to problems with the other parties but they are not the reasons for them. He noted that the creation of disturbances in West Beirut is the only way for President al-Jumayyil to loosen the noose around his neck.

Responding to a question, Minister Birri said that the PLO is now returning to its original position of resistance to Israel instead of continuing negotiations.

In another interview with *MONDAY MORNING* magazine, 'Asim Qansuh, the secretary general of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon, has affirmed that there is no alternative to military confrontation. Qansuh said that the tripartite agreement has not failed; its implementation has been blocked by the United States, Israel, the Phalangist Party, President al-Jumayyil, and Samir Ja'Ja'.

Qansuh noted that Damascus has not closed political channels as a way to find a solution allowing for the implementation of the tripartite agreement. However, Syria will not accept any amendment to the agreement. It insists that political sectarianism be eliminated.

Qansuh said: I do not think that the current negotiations will produce any results. The nationalist forces see no alternative to a military solution with President al-Jumayyil and Samir Ja'Ja'. He also noted that the opponents of the peace agreement refuse to give the moderate negotiators any margin for initiative and action. The possibilities for achieving a political solution will disappear completely, he affirmed, if Bkirki [the seat of the Maronite Patriarchate] involves itself in Al-Jumayyil's defense.

Junblatt Addresses Rally in 'Bayh

NC161525 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt in 'Bayh on 16 February marking the second anniversary of the liberation of western Al-Shahhar — recorded]

[Text] Our meeting today, 2 years after the liberation of this good and sacred land from the filth of the Phalangists and the dirt of the treacherous and rancorous factional Army, is of great national and patriotic significance. This is particularly true, as it comes at a historic time, when a fresh group of dark and threatening clouds looms on the horizon. Therefore, we must highlight the following facts:

1. We are still at the beginning of the battle for a united Arab Lebanon with a just political system, as Lebanon's isolationists, who retreated after a series of defeats, have regrouped and renewed their alliances with Israel and the West. Thus, any talk about a resolution, a resignation, or something similar is nonsense without a proper idea of what the nation should be and in the absence of this concept's prerequisites throughout the country. I say this because the dangers surrounding our nation are great and because certain parasites have ideological or sectarian dreams and are implementing subversive plans. The battle that we have waged and which has not yet ended is an Arab one. It is a fight for our existence as Arabs from the Gulf to the ocean. It is the battle of 'Abd al-Nasir and Kamal Junblatt. [applause] Any other talk will lead only to disintegration and partition.

2. If one closes the books on Lebanon without taking account of the dangers posed by Lebanon's isolationists, their tools, and alliances, and if one closes them on the basis of no victor and no vanquished, the resulting political and military upheavals will be delayed. I do not want this statement to be misinterpreted. I only want to point out that the isolationists are one thing and that Christianity is quite another. However, the absence of a single, common view or its obstruction by the occasional use of feeble and stupid excuses gives rise to an atmosphere of reluctance and retreat. It produces additional anarchy, theft, murder, and kidnappings of innocent people. Current events in West Beirut are the best evidence of what I say.

3. While welcoming the step taken by the Army's nationalist officers last week, we are still unable to understand why certain nationalist leaders continue to conceal the fact that there are hundreds of soldiers and officers who still receive orders from Al-Yarzi, or, rather, from the American advisers there.

4. It is time for us to lay a clear and frank foundation for the relationship between Lebanon's broad nationalist movement and the Palestinian people in order to protect both Lebanon's national cause and the Palestinian issue. We must also take local and foreign circumstances into account. It is useless and disturbing to continue handling things on the basis of a logic founded on reactions, inarticulate statements, and reports from a number of lobbies on violations committed by 'Arafat's people. I will not say anything more about this. [applause]

5. As far as economics is concerned, the role of certain monopolists in the dollar game has been restrained to some degree by the recent serious measures taken by the Central Bank. However, these criminals, who have brought the working, poor, and consumer classes to a state of starvation, must be unmasked and condemned.

6. May this anniversary be an incentive for additional struggle and greater faith. May 'Bayh be a true unionist starting point where our Islamic principles will be wiped free of the rust of time and removed from the strain of tradition and the sterility of division. May we testify and say and declare what is true. I state that there is no God but Allah, and that Muhammad is his prophet. Peace be with you. [applause]

Karami Vows Continued Implementation of Security Plan

NC171550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has ruled out the possibility that the security situation in West Beirut will deteriorate. He also announced that an investigative committee has been formed to look into yesterday's incident. In a statement after chairing a meeting of the West Beirut Coordination Committee today, Prime Minister Karami declared that the implementation of the security plan will continue in West Beirut to ensure that the Coordination Committee's objectives are reached, and that security and stability are restored. He expressed hope that we will find solutions that will bring peace and salvation to Lebanon.

'Usayran on President's Resignation, Security

NC171822 Beirut Domestic Sewrvice in Arabic
1630 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] According to Defense Minister 'Adil 'Usayran, who attended today's meeting of the West Beirut Coordination Committee, the security situation has improved to some degree, despite the setback it has suffered over the past two days. The reasons for this deterioration might not be important. Nevertheless, there was a setback, and it could have led to a general flare-up, but — thanks be to God — it is over and no flare-up occurred.

On the use of political or military means to resolve our problems, which has been the subject of a good deal of discussion recently, and on the correct path to follow for our salvation, 'Usayran said: The correct way is for the president of the Republic to be persuaded that his term should be shortened and his powers reduced somewhat. Everyone must also realize that the maintenance of political sectarianism will harm both Christians and Muslims. In a democratic country, it is imperimissible for a Christian to have an advantage over a Muslim.

'Usayran was told that his support for the officers' statement has elicited a negative reaction in East Beirut, and was asked to comment. He replied: I regret that my statement has had this effect. I have always believed in the need for coexistence and a united Army. I have followed a certain line and cannot abandon it. Through love and honest friendship, the Christians can get all they want from the Muslims today. It would be difficult for them to get anything by any other means, for we are sitting on a powder keg, and an explosion could result in the country's partition and the loss of time, lives, and property.

'Usayran concluded by pointing out: We do not want this to happen. We want Lebanon to be a united, integral, and totally free country. I hope these dreams will come true.

Syria's Al-Asad Rules Out Military Action in Lebanon

NC180803 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has ruled out the possibility of Syrian military action in Lebanon. He said that the tripartite agreement, worked out by the battling militias in Lebanon, can end the civil war.

In an interview to be published by Paris *LIBERATION* today, the Syrian president noted: We do not intend to intervene militarily in Lebanon. If, in the future, the Lebanese fail to find a solution, we will not intervene to stop the struggle, as we did in the past. He added that the agreement reached by the three militias with Syrian support, is the only means to peace. If peace efforts fail, Syria will only be an observer.

President al-Asad said he will support President al-Jumayyil as long as he is an element of reconciliation among the Lebanese.

Al-Asad remarked that he is not optimistic regarding the release of four Frenchmen held in Lebanon. Their release would have taken place late last month, had not the kidnappers at the last minute reneged on an accord reached after contacts with Al-Asad and French President Mitterrand.

The Syrian president added: We just cannot understand why they backed out. This brought our relations with the organization that supports the kidnappers to their worst point. He asserted: We believe that their failure to honor the agreement seriously harmed us. We hope that soon they will change their stand. They are changing their demands continuously, but we are not pessimistic.

Al-Asad said that he does not rule out the possibility that Syria might carry out military action to liberate the hostages if it can determine where they are being held and if the lives of the hostages would not be endangered.

Israelis Attacks Villages, Search for 2 Officers

Al-Biqa' Withdrawal Reported

NC151558 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] An NNA correspondent in the eastern sector reports that, the Lebanese Army has strengthened its positions and has begun to get itself ready, particularly in (Fillayah) and Yuhmur, after receiving information that the Israeli occupation forces started withdrawing a large number of vehicles and trucks loaded with prefabricated homes from the southern part of the western Al-Biqa' at dawn today. Israeli convoys were seen leaving an enemy assembly point and moving southward along the Al-Hasbani Road. Other convoys of trucks were spotted while withdrawing from an area north of Kawkaba.

'Resistance' Hits Israeli Settlement

NC152018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] In response to the Israeli enemy's repeated assaults on peaceful southern villages, the Martyr Muhammad Faris group attacked the settlement of Qiryat Shemona with Grad rockets at 1630 today. The target was squarely hit. This came in a statement released by the National Resistance Front this evening.

Rocket Attack on Israeli Village

NC161735 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Statement issued by the National Resistance Front on 16 February; place not given]

[Text] In retaliation for the Zionist enemy's actions against our people in the south, the Martyr Salamah al-Asmar group fired katyusha rockets at the settlement of Metulla today, scoring direct hits. Clouds of smoke were seen billowing from the area.

2,500 Israeli Troops Deployed

NC171536 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation forces carried out a series of large-scale attacks against a number of southern villages and towns this afternoon. At 1600 today, they massed their troops at the Sribbin-Haris crossroads in an attempt to advance toward the two villages. Israeli warplanes and helicopters also strafed Saffad al-Battikh, the Bra'shit Road, Shaqra, and the surrounding valleys and hills.

Israeli helicopters took part in a landing operation in Al-Sultaniyah at 1600 today. At that point, the occupation forces conducted an extensive search of the village.

According to our correspondents in the south, the Israelis are also trying to land troops in Dayr Ntar.

Meanwhile, UNIFIL has closed its checkpoints in the face of advancing Israeli units. A 30-minute clash took place between Irish and Israeli soldiers. The Israelis then took up positions in the western hills of Haris and on the southern approach to Wadi 'Ashur. In addition, the Israelis stormed a checkpoint manned by UNIFIL's Ghanaian troops in Al-Sultaniyah and deployed there after the Ghanaians withdrew.

Our correspondents in the south estimate that some 2,500 Israeli soldiers are now deployed in a number of villages in the steadfast south, including Haris, Bi'r al-Salasil, Dayr Ntar, Al-Sultaniyah, Safad al-Battikh, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Tibnin.

Violent fighting is going on between the Israelis and the heroes of the national resistance. Our reporters in the south have informed us that the clashes are taking place along two lines: the Dayr Ntar-Bi'r al-Salasil-al-Sultaniyah axis and the Sribbin-Haris-Kafra axis. The battles involving the national resistance are still in progress.

Israelis Land in South

NC171502 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Amal Movement sources in the south have announced that the Israelis are landing troops in Al-Sultaniyah and are trying to carry out a similar operation in Dayr Ntar.

Clash With 'Resistance'

NC171602 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1542 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received a report from the south stating that Israeli military helicopters are combing Haris. Infantry from Israel's occupation forces have taken up positions on the southern and western fringes of Haris after coming from the direction of (Ruwayshat Nakhlah) and Waid 'Ashur. Clashes are now taking place with members of the National Resistance in the valleys around Haris.

Israeli occupation troops entered Al-Sultaniyah a short while ago. They are now going through the village and are firing at any moving object. Hand-to-hand fighting has been reported in Al-Sultaniyah between the National Resistance and the army of occupation.

Villages Under Attack

NC171711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces launched a series of large-scale attacks on a number of southern villages and towns today. According to our latest reports on the battles and on Israel's acts of aggression, which are being countered by heroic operations involving National Resistance fighters, two Merkava tanks and three other vehicles entered Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr at 1815 today. Israeli occupation troops moved into the villages of Frun, Jwayya, and Ghanduriyih at 1540.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters landed soldiers in the village of Al-Shihabiyah this evening. Three Israeli vehicles also advanced toward a UNIFIL checkpoint near Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr.

Israeli warships are sailing in Lebanese territorial waters off the coast between Al-Naqurah and Al-Zahrani. We have been informed that the coastal road to the south is unsafe.

Israeli planes conducted a series of mock raids over Al-Zahrani and Abu al-Aswad at 1715. At 1515, Israel's army of occupation attacked Kafra, and came face-to-face with UNIFIL troops and National Resistance fighters. A 2-hour clash ensued before the Israelis entered the village. The Israeli occupation forces also stormed Haddathah, Bra'shit, and Shaqra.

UNIFIL Confirms Attacks

NC171720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] In a telephone conversation with an NNA correspondent, UNIFIL's official spokesman, Timor Goksel, confirmed that Israel has attacked the villages of Shaqra, Jumayjimah, and Safad al-Battikh. He said that UNIFIL did all it could to confront the advancing Israeli forces. In response to a question, Goksel noted that he has no information on casualties among Lebanese citizens in the towns and villages attacked by Israel.

3 Israelis Killed, 3 Captured

LD171357 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, 17 Feb (KUNA) — Members of the Lebanese National Resistance this afternoon captured three Israeli soldiers and killed three others during a military operation that the southern security sources described as successful.

4 Israelis Killed, 4 Captured

NC171436 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Lebanese National Resistance fighters carried out a heroic operation at the Bayt Yahun-Kunin crossing at 1350 today. UNIFIL sources have confirmed that three Israeli enemy soldiers were killed and three more were taken prisoner.

Enemy helicopters then began combing the villages of Bra'shit, Shaqra, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Haddathah, and Haris. The Lebanese National Resistance spotted an enemy force advancing on these villages. Security sources reported that the enemy forces have advanced along the Shaqra-Safad al-Battikh line. Enemy concentrations have been seen at the Hula crossing.

Enemy planes carried out a mock raid at low attitude over Sidon at 1530 today. The village of Rshaf came under artillery fire and was hit by six mortar shells. 30 citizens, who had been detained by the agent Lahd militia after storming Al-Tayyibah village under the leadership of agent 'Abbud and a number of Israeli officers, have been released. In Al-Tiri an Irish UNIFIL patrol is reported to have clashed with an agent Lahd militia patrol on the Al-Tirih-Safi al-Hawa' Road.

Security sources in the south said a short while ago that Israeli armored vehicles have passed Safad al-Battikh and the 'Ayn al-Mizrab areas in their move toward Tibnin and Haris. Enemy helicopters are now combing the valleys of Dayr Qantar, Haris, Kafra, and Yatar in their search for the resistance fighters who carried out the heroic operation.

Reports just in have confirmed that four of the enemy soldiers were killed and four others were taken prisoner in this operation, and not three killed and three prisoners, as was reported earlier. Internal security forces sources in Sidon reported a short while ago that a column of Israeli tanks and armored vehicles is advancing along the Bra'shit-Shaqra Road under the protection of warplanes and helicopters. Previous security information indicated that Israeli concentrations were seen on this axis.

6 Israelis Killed in Ambush

NC171748 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1720 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Reports available to us indicate that six Israeli Army soldiers have been killed and two others captured in an operation conducted by gunmen near Bint Jubayl. This was followed immediately by an Israeli advance toward the village of Haris, where UNIFIL's Irish contingent is stationed. The Israelis have deployed on the hills around Haris and on the southern hills of Wadi 'Ashur.

2 Israelis Missing

NC171733 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, Feb 17 (AFP) — Two Israeli soldiers were missing after an ambush in south Lebanon Monday in which two members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia were killed and a third Israeli soldier wounded, correspondents in the region reported. Several hundrd Israeli troops and SLA men mounted a major search operation for the missing men after the attack in the Israeli-policed "security zone" along the border.

It was the first time since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 that Israeli soldiers had apparently been abducted in Lebanon. The ambush took place between Bayt Yahun and Bint Jubayl, near the Israeli border.

The soldiers, said to be members of the Israeli intelligence service in civilian dress, were travelling in a car with the SLA men when they were ambushed. Some 500 Israeli troops, backed by helicopters, entered an area policed by Ghanaian and Irish members of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon and searched two villages, the correspondents said.

Captured Israelis Moved

LD181055 Kuwait KUNA in English 1009 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, feb 18 (KUNA) — Israeli forces were sweeping south Lebanon Tuesday morning in search for two Israeli officers captured by resistance elements Monday as resistance sources said the two Israelis had been whisked out of the area. The source told KUNA the two Israeli intelligence officers "have been moved to somewhere in Lebanon" where they are receiving treatment for serious wounds they sustained when they were ambushed.

The ambush took place in the Beit Yahoun area inside what Israel calls the "security zone", a border strip patroled by Israeli troops and plain clothes officers as well as pro-Israeli militias. The resistance [words indistinct] source, meanwhile, denied a report that Israel has captured two men of the national resistance front believed involved in Monday's ambush. Channel 7 Lebanon's television last night showed a footage in which a man said to be one of the two Israeli captives appeared with a head wound bandage.

The Israeli (?forces swept) some 18 southern Lebanese villages in search for the two Israeli officers and their captors and penetrated up to 18 kilometers to the north of the so-called security zone, a KUNA telephone report said. Israeli columns and helicopters swept through the area this morning as Israeli jetfighters carried out mock raids on the port cities of Tyre and Tebnin, Israeli troops questioned men aged between 16 and 40. Meanwhile, a Radio Israel broadcast denied that a militiaman of the pro-Israeli "South Lebanon Army" was captured in the ambush monday. The national resistance front has earlier said its fighters killed ten Israeli soldiers and captured two others was well as an SLA militiaman in the attack.

Israeli Overfly Tyre, Drop Flares

NC171928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Our correspondents in the south informed us this evening that Israeli warplanes have been conducting a large number of low-altitude flights over Tyre and the surrounding area since

2000 today, and have been dropping flares. In addition, a good many Israeli gunboats are patrolling the waters between Ra's al-Naqurah and Tyre.

Israelis Begin Withdrawal

NC171850 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] According to our latest reports from the resisting south, which we received a short while ago, the Israeli occupation forces began to withdraw from Al-Shihabiyah, Jwayya, and Dayr Ntar at 1900 today. The Israelis stormed these villages after landing troops by helicopter. Our information indicates that the withdrawing units have redeployed in Jumayjimah and Shaqra. A large concentration of occupation troops and their vehicles was reported near the Sribbin-Bayt Lif-Kafra Triangle. Israeli helicopters have been seen ferrying soldiers back to the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the vicious attack against villages and townships in the Tyre, Al-Nabatiyah, and Bint Jubayl districts continues. The enemy has employed hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles and more than 2,000 troops in this savage operation. Resistance fighters have displayed outstanding heroism in meeting the Israeli advance.

Israelis Return to Border

NC180657 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] According to reports from the south, the Israeli forces withdrew during the night from the Shi'ite villages and towns that they had entered in the afternoon and in which they had carried out large-scale military operations. The Israeli forces reportedly returned to the border strip.

The National Resistance Front claimed that it had captured two soldiers near Bayt Yahun in the south yesterday. The front pointed out in a statement that these two soldiers are being treated in a hospital in Beirut's southern suburb, adding that their photos will be published soon.

'Resistance' Claims Capture

NC172024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] A statement issued by the Islamic Resistance tonight notes that on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaykh Rahib Harb and on the occasion of Islamic resistance week, the Martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb Group stormed an Israeli enemy position, killing four soldiers from the army of occupation and capturing two others. The prisoners are being held by the Islamic Resistance, and a statement on this will be issued later.

10 Israelis Claimed Killed

NC172138 Paris AFP in English 2131 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Beirut, Feb 17 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance, a fundamentalist group, has claimed it killed 10 Israeli soldiers and was holding two others prisoner after an ambush in south Lebanon today. In Jerusalem, a military spokesman said that two Israeli soldiers and a militiaman of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were missing after the attack in which two SLA men were killed.

An official of the Islamic Resistance, a group that has claimed previous anti-Israeli operations in south Lebanon, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Israeli prisoners were being treated "in a region of Lebanon" and that details of their identities, rank and health would be given later.

The official said that an Islamic Resistance commando — "The group of the Martyr Raghib Harb" — had ambushed an "Israeli intelligence services convoy of four vehicles transporting 12 Israeli servicemen." Ten of the Israelis were killed and two others taken prisoner were seriously wounded, while the guerrillas returned to base without suffering losses, he said.

New Israeli Landings

NC172313 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
2245 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] According to our latest reports from the south, Israeli forces have been fighting with a number of gunmen for some time near the village of Haris and in the forests of Tibnin and Al-Sultaniyah. Israeli helicopters have been flying over the south since 2000. They fired flares just before midnight over Jwayya, Mahrunah, Tulin, and Al-Ghanduriyah. Explosions were also heard in these areas.

According to informed sources, the situation on coastal road in southern Lebanon is tense after Israeli gunboats, which are still offshore, shelled several regions in the Tyre district. Some 14 Israeli tanks are deployed near Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr following new landing operations by the Israelis in [name indistinct]. Flares were fired during the assault.

'Resistance' Shells Upper Galilee

NC180609 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0603 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received the following: The National Resistance Front reports that a resistance group fired scores of rockets at the Upper Galilee area in occupied Palestine early today. Concentrations of enemy tanks, vehicles, and artillery pieces and deployed in the area. Meanwhile, resistance men pounded the headquarters of agent Lahd in 'Ayta al-Sha'b, scoring direct hits. The militias' radio admitted the two operations, but made no mention of casualties.

Landings Meet Resistance

NC180835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] According to reports from the south, Israeli helicopters are now searching Srifa, Kafr Dunin, and surrounding villages. At 0915, the enemy attempted to land troops in the Shhur area, but were driven back by resistance men. Israeli gunboats were seen off the coast of Tyre. Resistance men fired at these boats, forcing them to withdraw to high seas. An Israeli gunboat received a direct hit and columns of smoke were seen rising from it.

At 0925, Israeli helicopters dropped leaflets signed by Israeli General Ori Or in the villages that the enemy forces have stormed. Or asks the inhabitants not to attack the occupation forces. Israeli infantry troops have besieged Tibnin and forced inhabitants between the ages of 16 and 40 to assemble in the village square. Some Israeli units are interrogating the inhabitants, and others are storming the houses in search of resistance men.

Resistance Foils Landings

NC180929 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] According to the latest security reports from the south, Israeli forces attempted to land troops in the township of Sil'a, but the resistance men immediately prevented them from doing so. Fighting involving various types of weapons is now going on to stop the enemy from achieving its objectives. Resistance men have also foiled a seventh landing operation in Shhur.

At 0900, the Israeli enemy tried to land troops in the Burj Qallawiyah-Srifa area, but was immediately confronted by a group of the faithful resistance, which managed to prevent the enemy from accomplishing its goal. Clashes are now raging in the area.

Israeli Planes Overfly Beirut

NC180922 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Israeli warplanes flying at high altitude broke the sound barrier over Beirut and the mountain at 1112.

Israeli Forces Enter Srifa

NC180940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0931 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received the following security report from the newsdesk: The Israeli occupation forces entered Srifa township a little while ago following 90 minutes of fighting between the occupation forces on the one hand, and the inhabitants and resistance men on the other. Four resistance men have been wounded. The inhabitants and resistance men have recorded a new heroic epic in their confrontation with the Israeli enemy.

Helicopter Downed, Crew Killed

NC181025 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The latest southern security reports indicate that approximately 380 Israeli troops, coming from the south, stormed the township of Haris at 0615 today. The enemy troops asked the residents to assembly in the town square. Later, these enemy troops closed the roads and searched the houses.

At 0930, Israeli occupation forces entered Srifa under the cover of continual helicopter flights. Four resistance men were wounded in the clash between Amal fighters and invading troops. According to the same reports, an Israeli helicopter was shot down on the outskirts of Srifa at 1000. All crew members were killed. Fighting is still raging along the Srifa-Al-Shihabiyah combat line. Three resistance men have been martyred.

Israelis Collect Helicopter Wreckage

NC181243 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] According to the latest security reports from the south, at 1200, enemy troops advanced again toward the townships of Al-Ghanduriyah and Srifa, where three persons were martyred and many others were wounded. Israeli helicopters continue to carry out flights over southern areas. Resistance men confronted the enemy troops and managed to shoot down a helicopter between Al-Naffakhiyah and Srifa. Two Israeli helicopters flew over this area, and transported the wreckage to the occupied Arab territories.

At 1235, columns of Israeli tanks entered the town of Srifa, where intensive battles are raging between the occupation forces and resistance men. Israeli warplanes were seen searching for the Israeli gunboat that resistance men had destroyed off the coast of Tyre. Fierce fighting has been raging since 1255 between occupation forces and resistance men along the combat lines of Srifa-Dayr Kifa and Burj Qallawiyah-Dayr Kifa. The enemy is using tanks and helicopters.

Enemy forces arrested about 70 people from Haris at noon today. Occupation forces attacked dayr kifa at 1100 and, following a violent battle on the roads leading to the town, entered it at 1230.

Amal Encircles Israeli Unit

NC181202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arbaic 1145 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] We have just received the following news flash: Security sources in the south have indicated that at 1315 today, a group from the Amal Movement encircled an Israeli motorized [Mu'allalah] unit 500 meters from Srifa. Israeli forces are using helicopters to attempt to break the siege on this unit. Enemy Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is currently touring the areas that have been the target of Israeli aggression.

Execution Ultimatum Issued

NC181833 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, Feb 18 (AFP) "Islamic Resistance," which has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in south Lebanon yesterday of two Israeli soldiers, today threatened to execute one of them if Israeli forces do not withdraw from Lebanon before 1900 GMT tomorrow. The group issued the warning in a communique distributed to the press along with photocopies of the identity cards and discs of two Israeli soldiers — Joseph Bennech and Rahani Levichek [spelling of names as received].

"We warn Israel of the need to withdraw immediately and totally from all the villages that were targets of the latest Israeli invasion," the communique said in a reference to the wide-ranging Israeli search operation for the two soldiers. The communique said the Israelis should pull out within 24 hours from 2100 local (1900 GMT) today. Otherwise, "one of the two Israeli soldiers will be executed," the communique said.

Amal Official Escapes Assassination Attempt

NC141233 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] A guarded calm reigns along the traditional combat lines in the capital, southern suburb, and mountain area. The calm is occasionally broken by sniper fire. Normal traffic is reported on the Al-Masalih-Qasqas and Al-Kafa'at-al-Murayjah crossing points.

Gunmen opened fire at Amal official Mahmud Abu Hamdan as he was passing through the Tallat al-Khayyat area at noon today. The attack left his aide slightly wounded.

Members of the strike force and the special units made up of army and internal-security forces personnel have erected fixed and mobile roadblocks and instituted patrols on certain streets in the capital to control security negligence and curb violations.

In another development, a private radio yesterday broadcast a report that tension was high around the Sabra and Shatila camps in the wake of the abduction of 10 people. Security sources have dismissed the report, saying that it is baseless.

Amal Denies Attempt

NC141326 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] An official source in the Amal Movement has made the following statement: Certain private radios have carried a tendentious report that brother Mahmud Abu Hamdan, member of the Amal Movement leadership, has been subjected to an assassination attempt. This is in keeping with these radios' usual practice of fabricating biased reports designed to mislead public opinion and camouflage what is happening in the Phalangist ghetto. While categorically denying this report, the Amal Movement cautions all brothers against this campaign of rumors. Its objective is to cause internal division and fragmentation.

Clashes Pit Amal-6th Brigade, Hizballah Forces

Tourism Ministry 'Stormed'

NC161837 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpts] A clash took place in Al-Hamra this afternoon, pitting gunmen from the Amal Movement and the 6th Brigade against those from Hizballah. One person was killed and a number of others were wounded. This preceded kidnappings by both sides and the establishment of roadblocks on a majority of streets in West Beirut.

Security sources in West Beirut report that Junblatt's men withdrew from the strike force in Al-Hamra after the fighting. Efforts to contain the incident began immediately, but the area remains tense.

Amal gunmen have received orders to protect 6th Brigade personnel after dozens of them were kidnapped, according to sources inside the movement.

The tension began when Hizballah gunmen fired on a 6th Brigade roadblock near the Information Ministry, and when Hizballah leaders rejected the 6th Brigade's request that it hand over those who had done the shooting.

A problem had arisen earlier between a 6th Brigade soldier and a member of Hizballah from the Badr al-Din family. The dispute led to the latter's death.

Hizballah gunmen have set up a roadblock near the building housing the offices of the newspaper *AL-SAFIR*. They did so after surrounding the strike force headquarters in Al-Hamra. They also brought heavy-caliber weapons and reinforcements into the area, which prompted the leadership of Junblatt's party to ask its men to withdraw from the strike force and not to get involved in the dispute.

The Amal Movement ordered its gunmen to close all the roads leading to Al-Hamra after Hizballah personnel stormed the Tourism Ministry at the top of Al-Hamra street and took up combat positions there. Meanwhile, a security report notes that Hizballah gunmen are encircling an Amal Movement force near the Beirut prison.

Hizballah Kidnaps 20 Soldiers

NC161951 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Fighting erupted between Amal and Hizballah gunmen on Zurayq Street in the Al-Mazra'ah section of West Beirut at 1915 today when an Amal roadblock near the 'Abd al-Nasir Mosque was hit by machinegun fire and a rocket. Muhammad Hijazi was killed, and four gunmen, including Husayn Zahr al-Din, were wounded in a clash that took place near the Tourism Ministry in Al-Hamra this afternoon. Sixth Brigade personnel fought Hizballah gunmen traveling in a four-car convoy when the latter failed to obey Army orders to stop at a checkpoint.

After the incident, Hizballah gunmen established roadblocks throughout West Beirut, and primarily in Al-Bastah. Hizballah gunmen kidnapped some 20 Lebanese Army soldiers, including a colonel, this afternoon.

1 Dead in Fighting

NC162023 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] A guarded calm prevails along the traditional combat lines in the capital, Beirut's southern suburb, and the moutain area. In West Beirut, the strike force has instituted patrols to contain the aftereffects of some limited fighting that took place this afternoon between a 6th Brigade unit and a number of gunmen. The clash left one person dead and another wounded. The West Beirut Security Coordination Committee, in cooperation with the Strike Force command, has dealt with the incident.

Amal Denies Reports on Clash

NC170650 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] A responsible source in the Amal Movement has denied reports by suspect radios that Amal and Hizballah gunmen clashed yesterday by the 'Abd al-Nasir Mosque and on Zurayq Street in Al-Mazra'ah. The source said that such reports aim to create confusion among the nationalists.

2 Amal Gunmen Wounded

NC170700 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] At 2000 yesterday, Amal and Hizballah gunmen clashed in the Coca Cola area. Two Amal members, including one of Minister Birri's companions and a person named Husayn Munjib, were wounded. Hizballah gunmen in the Burj Abu Haydar area have stormed the house of a 6th Brigade warrant officer and kidnapped him. Two other 6th Brigade members were also kidnapped by Hizballah gunmen in the same area.

6th Brigade on 'Alert'

NC170851 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Members of the 6th Brigade have been ordered not to wear military uniforms in West Beirut outside their headquarters. A state of alert has been declared and permission for leave has been revoked. The 6th Brigade has been instructed to report to their centers in civilian clothing. These orders came as a result of the wide-scale kidnappings by Hizballah gunmen yesterday against 6th Brigade members. Since yesterday a state of tension has prevailed in 'Ayn al-Muraysa, Al-Qantari, Al-Mazra'ah, Burj Abu Haydar, and Al-Muhayd.

Hizballah Frees Officers

NC171034 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Hizballah has released the 6th Brigade officers who were kidnapped yesterday, following a clash between brigade members and Hizballah gunmen. Hizballah is still holding the NCO's and soldiers.

6th Brigade Denies Alert

NC171217 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] A 6th Brigade source has denied reports by certain private radio stations that 6th Brigade personnel have been placed on alert. The source pointed out that members of the brigade have been wearing fatigues and that permission for leave has not been revoked.

Amal, Palestinians Discuss Camp Security

NC171918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri held a meeting in his office today, which was attended by Haytham Jum'ah and Abu Husayn Baddah, Amal's two representatives on the camps security coordination committee. Abu 'Ali Mahdi Busaysu, Fadl Shruru, Abu Khalid al-Shamal, Salah Salah, Hatim Ka'ut, and 'Ali 'Aziz from the Palestinian National Salvation Front were also present. The two sides conducted an in-depth review of the general situation in and around the camps.

After the session, Minister Birri said: We made a detailed review of relations between the movement and our Palestinian brothers and of conditions in and around the camps. Despite the great improvement in relations, we agreed on a number of measures to eliminate any obstacles or barriers to security between the camps and the surrounding areas. So in the belief that Palestinian and national security is one and the same.

Minister Birri also reported that agreement was reached on forming a political and security coordination committee to deal with the situation in the camps and to assume a basic share of the general national responsibility. We have a common enemy and common goals. Therefore, we must work together in our political and military activity.

Fadl Shruru described the session as very positive, adding that it dealt with many outstanding issues. He noted: We can say that there was a good deal of progress. The decisive decisions made at this meeting could prevent further violations by anyone.

When asked about the measures that were taken, he replied: A joint investigation committee has been created to punish anyone whose involvement in recent events can be proven. The committee will begin work immediately.

Salah Salah said: The meeting was good. We came away with precise proposals that cover both specific problems and ways of preventing any new developments.

'Many' Wounded in Explosion East of Sidon

NC151752 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] An explosive charge has gone off in 'Anqun, a Shi'ite village located in al-Zahrani, which is east of Sidon. Many were wounded in the blast. [Words indistinct] are not yet known.

3 Killed, 4 Wounded

NC152102 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] An explosive charge has gone off in the village of 'Anqun in Al-Zahrani, resulting in the deaths of Husayn, Tahir, and Karam Farhat and leaving four others seriously wounded.

3 Killed in Shelling of Sidon Area

NC151929 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] While a guarded calm prevails along the traditional combat lines in the capital, the southern suburb, and the mountain area, medium- and heavy-caliber weapons are being used in the fighting that is now going on in Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir. This followed acts of aggression by Lahd's militiamen, which are being countered by the National Liberation Army's Martyr Maruf Sa'd forces. Reports indicate that Sidon and the surrounding area came under fierce artillery fire from positions held by Lahd's militia at 1915 today. Three people, including Samir Haydar, were killed.

Communist Party Official Al-Din Shot in Sidon

NC180726 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Tension still reigns in several parts of the south following a series of confrontations between Amal and the communists in the last few days, the outcome of kidnappings, assassination attempts, and charges and countercharges. One of these incidents involved Hasan Shams al-Din, the officer who handles the communist party's relations in the south, who was shot when passing the Martyrs Square in Sidon last evening. Shams al-Din was subsequently taken to the hospital.

Beirut Reports Threat Against Western 'Target'

NC151555 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1510 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] An unidentified person claiming to belong to the Committee for Freeing Arab Prisoners [Lajnat Tahrir al-Sujana' al-'Arab] has contacted the AP office in Paris and announced that the French Government has failed to fulfill its promises. The individual noted that the French Government will be responsible for the bloodbath, as we will strike at a target that symbolizes Western propaganda, which is biased against the Arabs, between 2000 and 2200 GMT today.

8 People Wounded by Sniper Fire in West Beirut

NC171332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The security strike force is continuing to maintain security in West Beirut. The Khandaq al-Ghamiq area came under intensive sniper fire at 1200 today. As a result, eight people were wounded. Lawyer Haytham Jum'ah, member of the Amal Movement Political Bureau and Amal representative in the West Beirut Coordination Committee, has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the security plan in West Beirut. He pointed out that incidents have decreased greatly, following the adoption of the recent measures.

Kidnappers Issue 'Final Warning' to Spain

HK170114 Hong Kong AFP in English 0103 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Beirut, Feb 17 (AFP) — The kidnappers of three Spanish Embassy officials here issued a "final warning" to Madrid Sunday to meet their demands quickly or Spanish interests would be "hit very hard." An anoymous caller claiming to represent the so-called Black Flags organization, which has said it carried out the January 17 kidnapping and has threatened to kill the three, telephoned the warning to a Western news agency in the Lebanese capital.

He called for "the immediate release of our mujaheddin (Moslem fighter) brothers" — Mohammad Rahhal and Mustapha Khalil, [names as received] serving a 23-year prison sentence in Spain for allegedly shooting and wounding a Libyan Embassy official in Spain in September 1984. The Spanish Embassy hostages are Assad Abdu, his brother, Gaspar Abdu [names as received], and Pedro Sanchez, a member of Spain's special intervention force.

Meanwhile Spanish police and prison authorities held a new set of talks with the Shi'ite Moslem prisoners in Madrid at the weekend, the Spanish news agency EFE reported, quoting prison officials.

Nabih Birri, head of the Lebanese Shi'ite Moslem Movement Amal, started mediation efforts January 21. The Spanish Government, which wants the hostages released before the two Shi'ites, also has contacted Syrian authorities to help. The Shi'ite prisoners are linked to a group known as the Imam Mussa Sadr Brigades, after the Iranian-born leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite community who vanished in 1978 on a Libyan trip.

Shots From Car Hit Soviet Embassy Guard

NC141505 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1446 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] At approximately 1630, a white Mercedes 260 drove by the Soviet Embassy, which is in the Corniche al-Mazra area. The passengers shot at and hit one of the guards. He is a member of Junblatt's party. The car then headed for Al-Rawshah.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Ministers Arrive in Damascus

JN161740 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti acting prime minister and foreign minister, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus this evening on evening on a visit to Syria. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Hunayn Hatim, director of the Arab Homeland Department of the Foreign Ministry.

They were also received by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, and the Kuwaiti and Saudi Embassy staffs.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Shaykh al-Sabah expressed his pleasure and that of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on visiting Syria. He said: We carry verbal messages for President Hafiz al-Asad.

Received by AL-Asad

JN161744 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1727 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, 16 Feb (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad received Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1930 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, and Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad al-Kuhaymi attended the meeting. Talks dealt with developments in the region.

Received by Khaddam

JN171131 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at 1215 today. The meeting which was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad al-Kuhaymi revolved around developments in the region.

AL-Faysal Departs

JN171337 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus this afternoon. Seeing him off at Damascus international airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and Saudi Ambassador Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi.

Al-Asad Rules Out Military Action in Lebanon

NC180803 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has ruled out the possibility of Syrian military action in Lebanon. He said that the tripartite agreement, worked out by the battling militias in Lebanon, can end the civil war.

In an interview to be published by Paris *LIBERATION* today, the Syrian president noted: We do not intend to intervene militarily in Lebanon. If, in the future, the Lebanese fail to find a solution, we will not intervene to stop the struggle, as we did in the past. He added that the agreement reached by the three militias with Syrian support, is the only means to peace. If peace efforts fail, Syria will only be an observer.

President al-Asad said he will support President al-Jumayyil as long as he is an element of reconciliation among the Lebanese.

Al-Asad remarked that he is not optimistic regarding the release of four Frenchmen held in Lebanon. Their release would have taken place late last month, had not the kidnappers at the last minute reneged on an accord reached after contacts with Al-Asad and French President Mitterrand.

The Syrian president added: We just cannot understand why they backed out. This brought our relations with the organization that supports the kidnappers to their worst point. He asserted: We believe that their failure to honor the agreement seriously harmed us. We hope that soon they will change their stand. They are changing their demands continuously, but we are not pessimistic.

Al-Asad said that he does not rule out the possibility that Syria might carry out military action to liberate the hostages if it can determine where they are being held and if the lives of the hostages would not be endangered.

Two-Year Economic Agreement Signed With Sudan

JN171048 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 17 (SUNA) — An agreement on boosting commercial exchanges between Sduan and Syria was signed here yesterday. Commerce, Cooperation, and Supply Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Sayyid signed on behalf of Sudan and the Syrian minister of economic and external commerce in behalf of his country. The agreement, which will last for two years, is aimed at promoting the commercial exchange between the two countries particularly in food and industrial products. The Sudanese-Syrian joint economic committee held its meetings in Damascus from Feb 11-14.

Units, Helicopters Deployed To Find IDF Soldiers

TA171921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports initial details of today's incident: At around noon today, three vehicles were traveling near Bayt Yahun near the border of the security strip. One was carrying army of southern Lebanon [ASL] soldiers, another was transporting an IDF officer and two ASL soldiers, and the third was carrying two IDF soldiers and an ASL driver. They were heading north in local vehicles, and the first car made the turn without any problem. A bomb was activated as the second car passed, and the two ASL soldiers were killed. The IDF officer with them in the same vehicle was not hurt. The soldiers in the third car were kidnapped. The IDF is trying to locate the kidnapped soldiers and has been deploying reinforced units and helicopters in a bid to intercept the kidnappers. The identity of the kidnappers is still unclear.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IDF has searched nine villages north of the security strip in a search for the missing. The empty vehicles were found near the village of Kunin in the Bint Jubayl area. Our correspondent adds that there were no incidents between the IDF and Irish or Ghanaian units from UNIFIL, as Lebanon has reported. An announcement on the IDF operation was transmitted to the UNIFIL commander.

Search Continues North of Strip

TA171953 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky — live in the studio]

[Excerpt] Right now an IDF unit is operating in the Shi'ite villages north of the security strip of southern Lebanon, searching the area in the hope of locating two IDF soldiers and one army of southern Lebanon [ASL] soldier who were kidnapped by terrorists. The site is located in the northern part of the security strip, where the ASL mans a permanent roadblock. The area is a regular crossing point between the north and south. After the kidnapping, IDF helicopter gunships were rushed to the area, and according to foreign sources, hundreds of troops and scores of tanks have been deployed there.

Military sources said this evening that the operation has gone relatively quietly except for one incident in the village of Al-Sultaniyah, north of Tibnin. The IDF denies any firing incidents involving the UNIFIL personnel in the area took place. The IDF operated in the villages of Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Al-Sultaniyah, Haris, and Kafra, all of which are Shi'ite villages located north of the security strip.

The identity of those who carried out the operation this morning is unknown. It was said in Beirut this evening that it was the Salvation Front, in other words, the Palestinian organizations belonging to Fatah dissidents Abu Musa, Ahmad Jibril, and George Habash. As yet, there is no official confirmation that the perpetrators were members of Palestinian organizations, and it may have been a squad belonging to the extremist Shi'ite organization Hizballah. Both Palestinian organizations, the Salvation Front and Hizballah operate under Syria's inspiration.

Soldiers Reportedly Seriously Wounded

TA172030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The Muslim militias in southern Lebanon have announced that the two kidnapped IDF soldiers sustained serious wounds and are being treated. The militias' announcement, issued in Beirut, said that pictures of the kidnapped and the kidnappers' demands will soon be published.

Search To Resume 18 Feb

TA172206 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 2146 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Quiet now prevails in the security strip in southern Lebanon. UN sources told our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky this evening that the IDF units have withdrawn and returned to the security strip zone. Military sources have reported that large-scale searches will resume tomorrow morning. Early this evening aircraft dropped flares over Sidon.

Sources in southern Lebanon reported this evening that the IDF troops reached the site of the kidnapping approximately 90 minutes after the incident, during which time — the sources claimed — it was possible to evacuate the kidnapped to a place north of Sidon.

Our army affairs correspondent reports that approximately one month ago the terrorists set another ambush in the area where the kidnapping took place. As a result of that incident, two army of southern Lebanon men were killed and an IDF soldier was wounded. The site is close to the village of Kunin, which has been deserted by its inhabitants.

No ASL Soldier Missing

TA172308 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2300 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Two IDF soldiers are still missing in southern Lebanon following an ambush set for them by terrorists near the village of Bayt Yahun. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal has been told that an additional investigation shows that no army of southern Lebanon soldier is missing.

IDF Captures Two Terrorists

TA180525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The Israeli army captured two terrorists involved in the attack on the convoy yesterday. Also, some of the weapons used in the ambush were seized. The Voice of Israel's military reporter says the attackers were apparently extremist Shi'ite Moslems.

Hundreds of residents of south Lebanon have started fleeing northward in the wake of the ambush. The Israeli army is trying to stop the exodus, fearing reversal of what it considers a major achievement in recent months: The repopulation of Shi'ite villages in the south. Observers said yesterday's incident was the worst since Israel withdrew from Lebanon last June, and Israel will not be able to let it pass.

Reinforcements Sent 18 Feb

TA180616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Large IDF forces are continuing to conduct searches in Lebanon for the two IDF soldiers who were kidnapped yesterday and the terrorists who attacked them. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that IDF reinforcements entered Lebanon this morning and are combing areas on foot and in vehicles, with the aid of helicopters. The searches are being conducted in the southern Lebanon area and north of it. It was reported this morning that two of the terrorists involved in the attack were captured.

The IDF has also erected roadblocks in order to prevent Shi'ite residents from fleeing from southern Lebanon northward. The heads of the Shi'ite villages explained they are particularly afraid of acts of revenge by army of southern Lebanon soldiers.

Picture on TV Not IDF Soldier

TA181103 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1055 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Identification of the picture screened on Lebanese television yesterday indicates it is not a picture of one of the IDF soldiers kidnapped in an ambush yesterday. This is reported by our military correspondent Gay Zohar. According to military sources, there is no certainty that the terrorists actually intended to kidnap Israeli soldiers; they may have wanted to kidnap army of southern Lebanese soldiers only.

Search in S. Lebanon To Continue

TA181321 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The IDF will continue its searches in southern Lebanon tomorrow. This has been reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. The defense minister has said that the actions in southern Lebanon are temporary and there is no intention to expand the security strip.

After the IDF completes its serches north of the strip, and after the desired results have been obtained, it will return to the method of activity it has followed to date. He said that so far the searches have uncovered many arms caches. A senior IDF source has said that UNIFIL personnel, especially the Irish battalion, are not helping the IDF; nor are they preventing terrorist activity from the area they control. The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Moshe Levi, intends to consult with General William Callaghan, and our military correspondent comments that he will apparently raise the UNIFIL soldiers' behavior with him. The UN force headquarters has reported that so far there have been no unusual incidents during the IDF searches in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL officers and observers are in most of the villages being searched by the IDF. Some 200 residents were brought together in the village of Tibnin and interrogated for about 6 hours, and in the village of Haris some 80 were interrogated.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that six inhabitants who had been wounded by shots were brought to UN headquarters. Several citizens also went to hospitals in Tyre and reported that they had been wounded during the searches. Our correspondent was told that only a few residents in the Shi'ite villages in the south fled to the north, and this was a result of the roadblocks set up by the IDF.

Area Residents Request Continued Aid

TA181512 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1448 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The commander of the Central Command, Major General Ehud Baraq, said today that the force that entered Lebanon has no intention of harming the local population in the south and that as soon as the mission is completed the forces will return to Israel. Maj Gen Baraq added that from the photos received from Lebanon, it is impossible to identify the wounded soldier as one of the IDF soldiers kidnapped yesterday. During the searches that have been conducted over the past 24 hours in southern Lebanon, many weapons have been captured. RPG's, hand grenades, and various types of rifles have been discovered. In this context, our correspondent in the North, Menahem Horowitz, reports that a roadside bomb exploded near the site where the two IDF soldiers were kidnapped yesterday. Nobody was hurt.

People living in the villages north of the security strip area have appealed to the IDF authorities, requesting that Israel not change its policy in southern Lebanon and that aid to the inhabitants of the south continue.

Peres Statement on Missing Soldiers

TA181009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will not cease its efforts to locate the two IDF soldiers who were kidnapped in southern Lebanon until all possibilities of tracking down those to blame for the act have been exhausted. Every person in Israel means the world to us and is dear to us all. Mr Peres was speaking in Tel Aviv where he is being hosted by the municipality.

General, Rabin on Kidnapping

TA181116 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1054 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] In the course of the searches being conducted by the IDF in Lebanon, no signs have been discovered to point to the location of the kidnapped IDF soldiers. This was stated by Ori Or, the commander of the Northern Command, to our military correspondent Gay Zohar. According to Major General Or, the combing operations which are being conducted beyond the security zone do not indicate any intention to expand the security zone area.

Defense Minister Rabin says that in the course of the searches now being carried out beyond the security zone, large quantities of arms have already been found. The intention is to carry out the searches until the goal is obtained. Our military correspondent Gay Zohar reports on the defense minister's statement:

[Begin Rabin recording] There have always been incidents on the northern border of the security zone. After all, one should remember that the security zone, among its other functions, serves as a buffer zone which defends our northern border, as our mission is the defense of our northern border, the settlements, and the settlers in them. There is no doubt that the very fact that the terrorists managed to kidnap two IDF soldiers, defined as missing today, is grave.

I believe that the security zone has proven itself since the IDF completed its redeployment. Of course, we should occasionally, readjust the methods of operation and the tools used for one operation or another to changing circumstances. However, in principle, the security zone [illegible] steadfast. The goal of the more extensive IDF activity, which is mainly beyond the security zone, is aimed at conducting searches both for the perpetrators and for concentrations of arms and the like. A lot of arms have already been discovered. [end recording]

Syrian Intelligence Believed Involved

TA180747 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Feb 86 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel will warn Syria, via the United States, that it considers it responsible for the fate of the kidnapped soldiers. Jerusalem believes that Syrian intelligence was actively involved in the planning of the ambush set for IDF and army of southern Lebanon soldiers within the buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

Senior sources described the act by the radical terrorist organizations as the most daring within the buffer zone since the IDF withdrew from Lebanon. Israel will continue its patrols and security presence in the buffer zone in southern Lebanon in spite of the kidnapping. In addition, steps will be taken to bolster the sense of security and to prevent such attacks. Sources in Jerusalem said that Israel will strongly retaliate against the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon for assisting the terrorist organizations in the kidnapping.

It is believed that the ambush was well planned and prepared in detail, down to the choice of the escape route. During the operation itself, Shi'ite terrorists apparently cooperated with the pro-Syrian terrorists belonging to Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha] organization. Terrorists from Abu Musa's organization and from the extremist Shi'ite Hizballah organization are believed to have participated in the kidnapping.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reported to the prime minister on the kidnapping of the soldiers and on the IDF's retaliatory action which was aimed at deterring the Shi'ite population from cooperating with the terrorists and at blocking the routes taken by the kidnappers. Sources in Jerusalem believe that the kidnapping and the IDF's response mark a new stage in the tension in the security buffer zone.

IDF Soldier Killed Off Lebanese Coast 18 Feb

TA181338 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1333 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] This morning Corporal Daniyel Amar, age 19, from Netanya, was killed in Lebanon. His funeral will take place tomorrow at 1515 in the military cemetery in Netanya. This has been reported by the IDF spokesman.

Corp Daniyel Amar was killed off the Tyre coast by shots fired from the shore at his boat.

Shamir: Efforts To Capture Terror Leaders To Continue

TA180633 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Yesterday Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that in the future too, Israel will continue to make every effort to capture the terrorist leaders in the north. Mr Shamir said this in the course of a tour in the north. He added that the terrorist organizations will be weakened by their leaders' capture. Menahem Horowitz heard Yitzhaq Shamir:

[Begin Shamir recording] We must do this, and will do so in the future as well. It is necessary to succeed of course, although nobody can guarantee success. When one fights, one cannot always be sure of success. If we had captured the terrorist leaders, we should have also decided how and what [to do with them]. However, this problem is nothing compared to the achievement which could have been scored. [end recording]

Continuing Reportage on Tabah Talks

Rabin Meets Egyptian Delegation

TA141013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today met in his office with the heads of the Israeli and Egyptian delegations to the Tabah talks.

Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar reports that various issues were raised in the meeting. The heads of the Egyptian delegation mainly wanted to know details about Israel's policy in the territories. Minister Rabin emphasized the steps Israel has adopted for improving the condition of the population in the territories, noting that care is being taken not to harm Israel's security interests.

Nabil al-'Arabi, the head of the Egyptian delegation, defined the meeting as friendly and honest.

'Some Progress' Made

TA160551 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Some progress is reported in the final round of talks in Herzliyya last night between Israeli and Egyptian delegations, but the progress was confined to relatively minor issues surrounding the arbitration of the Tabah border dispute. The head of the Egyptian delegation, Nabil al-'Arabi, said there is still a large gap between the two sides. The delegations are to meet in Cairo next month. The cochairman of the Israeli team, Avraham Tamir, said if the next round does not bring agreement, the issue may have to be brought back to the political leadership for decision.

Kimche Expresses Doubts on Compromise

TA160719 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche by Eldad Beck at the end of the talks between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations at the Accadia Hotel in Herzliyya, "late last night" — recorded]

[Text] [Kimche] I think that the talks were conducted in a good atmosphere. There were no crises, and there were few difficult problems. Nevertheless, there are differences of opinion, and different positions, and it is obvious that each side wants to achieve the maximum it can from these talks. Thus, it is only natural that there should be different positions. I do not think things will be simple. The continuation of the talks will not be easy, but at least we can say that the talks are being held in a good atmosphere.

[Beck] Mr Kimche, in your opinion, do you think that during the next round of talks in Cairo, the arbitral compromise can be concluded so that it can be presented to the political level?

[Kimche] I greatly doubt this.

Foreign Ministry: 'No Crisis'

TA160741 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Feb 86 p 2

[Text] A senior Foreign Ministry source last night denied that there was any crisis in the Tabah and normalization talks between Israel and Egypt. The source was commenting on speculation about a possible crisis in the talks, which stemmed from the postponement of their renewal until the beginning of March.

The senior source, saying that the talks would be resumed on or about March 3, said that things were going "exactly as expected." He said that "there were serious differences of opinion, expected and legitimate, but certainly there was no crisis." The differences focused on the major problems of the compromise. The source explained that the need for postponement was due to the feeling on both sides that the material accumulated over the past two rounds of talks needed to be studied and worked upon. The central achievement in the field of normalization of relations was an Egyptian invitation to Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir and a team of ministry experts to visit Egypt in the near future.

Regarding the Egyptian demand that the Egyptian Coptic Church regain control of the Bi'r al-Sultan chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre from the Ethiopian Church, the Israeli delegation agreed that the problem "would be addressed by the Israeli authorities."

Progress was apparently also made during talks on various technical aspects of the Tabah compromise, the agreed document outlining the terms of reference of the arbitration. But the main problems of the compromise — concerning the character and length of tioe of the conciliation process at the start of the arbitration, the wording of the "question" (regarding sovereignty in the disputed border areas) and rights of access and ownership in the Tabah area after the arbitration award — remained wide open. On Friday, the heads of the two delegations met Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, at Rabin's request. Almost the whole 90-minute session was devoted to Egyptian questions and Israeli answers on the "quality of life" in the administered territories. Rabin, according to Defence Ministry sources, gave a detailed survey of Israel's assistance to the Arabs in the territories in such fields as health, agriculture and municipal administration.

Egyptian head of delegation Nabil al-'Arabi asked about Israeli deportation of Palestinians and the demolition of terrorists' houses. Rabin, in his response, mentioned that he had been arrested under the same Defence Emergency regulations (under the British) which were the legal basis for Israeli anti-terrorist measures in the territories. Al-'Arabi reportedly smiled. Friday afternoon the Egyptians visited and prayed in the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Egyptian Delegation Departs

TA160816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks left this morning for Cairo from Ben-Gurion Airport. The head of the delegation, Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, said that progress was made mainly in minor issues. The heads of the Israeli delegation, Avraham Tamir and David Kimche, mentioned the good atmosphere that characterized the talks.

Detained Turkish Seamen To Be Sent Home

TA170906 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Feb 86 p 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Israel is to fly seven Turkish seamen caught last week aboard the *Laros I* off the coast of Gaza back to Istanbul, sources in Jerusalem said last night. The seven are being held at the

Ashqelon police station, together with a Palestinian sailor who was also aboard.

The decision to fly the seven home was announced after the Turkish Foreign Ministry had summoned Israel's charge d'affaires in Ankara, Yehuda Milo, and demanded that the crewmen be allowed to return. The Turkish ministry protested against the "irresponsible attitude" of the Israeli patrol boat crew, which had fired at the *Laros 1*. The Turks insisted the incident had occurred outside Israel's territorial waters.

In Tel Aviv, a military source did not deny the Turkish boat had been captured on the high seas. "All our anti-terror operations are carried out in international waters... We only detain suspects, and innocent people never get here." Israeli officials suspect that the captain, Suleyman Yusuf Askar, was killed by his own men and not by shots from the Israeli boat. This would explain why no bullet marks were found on the Turkish vessel.

Doctors here are to submit an autopsy report before Yusef's body is flown home. Before being caught, the crew had been seen dumping goods overboard. A subsequent search of the area revealed inner tubes filled with hashish.

No Autopsy Allowed

TA1811[illegible]3 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Israel has returned the body of a Turkish captain whose ship was detained off the Gaza coast. The captain died of gunshot wounds during the Israeli seizure of the boat.

The family of the Turkish captain has not allowed an autopsy on the body, and Israeli officials say that as a result, they are not certain whether the bullets that killed the captain came from Israeli guns.

Civilian Administration Appoints New Arab Mayor

TA172050 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria today appointed Ibrahim Abu Hamad as mayor of the town of Yattah in the Hebron hills. For the last 8 years this town was headed by a resident of another town in the Hebron area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this appointment is part of the effort to appoint Arabs to head the municipalities of Judaea and Samaria:

[Begin recording] [Gus] For the last 8 years Yattah was headed by 'Abd al-Rahman (Hijaz) from the nearby town of Dura. The previous mayor was deposed by the Military Government.

Recently prominent families in the town organized and appealed to the Civilian Administration to appoint local municipal leadership. After the request was studied, the Civilian Administration acquiesced, and today the appointment was given to Ibrahim Abu Hamad, along with a check amounting to 50,000 new shekels.

The Yattah families' initiative is part of an activity that has become noticeable in the territories and is meant to return the municipalities to Arab hands. Today we talked about this with Colonel Efrayim Sene, head of the Civilian Administration, during a visit to Jericho:

[Sene] The situation is as follows: We have a consistent and outspoken policy of returning the municipalities to local hands. We implemented this policy in Nabulus, so far successfully and to the inhabitants' satisfaction, and we intend to continue this policy.

[Gus] In the town of Al-Birah several people have submitted their candidacy to head the municipality. Are you discussing this, and will you accept the requests?
[Sene] In the last few days there have been two groups. There are also initiatives in Ramallah, and possibly in other places as well. We will discuss this.

[Gus] At what stage are the discussions? Are we speaking of days or weeks?
[Sene] I do not think we should set a timetable and stand with a stopwatch in our hands.

[Gus] To repeat, there are two groups in Al-Birah, gatherings of candidates in nearby Ramallah, and contacts in Hebron. In Jericho as well there is activity: Following Sene's visit, local council members complained that the Civilian Administration is ignoring their request to appoint new council members to replace those who have retired or passed away. Today the council is three short of its total of eight members. The Civilian Administration says that so far no request in this regard has been received. [end recording]

ALGERIA

Ibrahimi Delivers Messages to Al-Qadhdhafi, Bourguiba

LD162310 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The president of the Republic's special envoy Dr Taleb Ibrahimi today went in succession to Tripoli and then to Tunis. In Tripoli, the minister of foreign affairs handed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to the leader of the Libyan revolution Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Early this evening, the head of Algerian foreign affairs arrived in Tunis carrying a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to President Habib Bourguiba. This morning, Dr Taleb Ibrahimi had been received in Algiers by President Chadli Bendjedid before his departure for Libya and Tunisia.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Iran-Iraq War

LD152056 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement today on the Iran-Iraq war, saying: Algeria once again calls on both Iran and Iraq to end this bloodshed and tragedy by honorably settling the differences between the two fraternal countries. The conflict between the two fraternal countries of Iran and Iraq is currently reaching dangerous levels.

The spokesman added that since the conflict began Algeria has unceasingly expressed its deep concern about the dire consequences, not only for the aspirations of the peoples of Iran and Iraq for peace and development, but also for the Arab and Muslim worlds in their collective mobilization to support the real issues. The Foreign Ministry spokesman added that the continuation of the war between the two fraternal countries of Iran and Iraq has undermined their achievements, and the escalation of the war will cause great losses and great suffering.

After expressing Algeria's regret at the escalation of this war, the spokesman repeated Algeria's appeal for an end to the conflict and for efforts to honorably settle the differences between the two fraternal countries.

Foreign Ministry Statement Urges Dialogue in Chad

LD152010 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] In addition to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, there is also concern about the Chadian conflict. The spokesman of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that it is only through dialogue that Chadians will be able to settle their differences on the reunification and reconstruction of their country.

The new outbreak of military operations in Chad goes against all current African efforts aimed at implementing national reconciliation in that country and protecting it against foreign intervention from which the Chadian people have suffered during much of their history.

The current OAU president and the president of the Republic of Congo are doing their best to bring about all the necessary conditions to satisfy the African desire for the sake of reestablishing dialogue among the sons of Chad, says the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, Algeria affirms that every effort must be made to halt the renewed fraticidal clashes in Chad and to make it possible for those who are acting on behalf of Africa to be able to fulfill their mandate. In reasserting its firmest support for the plan for settling the Chadian problem adopted by the 19th OAU summit, said the spokesman, Algeria reiterates its encouragement to the current president of the OAU and the president of the Republic of Congo in their attempts to reconcile the Chadian people in order that they may fully enjoy their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Further Details

LD161440 Algiers APS in English 1320 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, 16/2/86 (APS) — "Algeria considers that everything should be done to stop the resumption of fratricidal fightings in Chad and to enable those who act on behalf of Africa to fulfill their mandate," a declaration of the Foreign Affairs Ministry indicated.

"The resumption of military operations in Chad are counter to all African efforts in order to reach national reconciliation in this country and secure it against foreign interferences from which the Chadian people who have suffered too much of these interferences throughout their history," the declaration added.

"Algeria renews its attachment to the plan of settlement of the Chadian problem which was adopted by the bureau of the 19th OAU summit and reiterates its encouragements to the present OAU chairman and the Congolese President in their action which answers the expectations of all those who want to see Chadians reconciliated and united in Chad that will fully enjoy its sovereignty and its territorial integrity."

Libya's Jallud Departs Algiers Following Talks

LD151336 Algiers APS in English 1141 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, 15/02/86 (APS) — 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Command of the Libyan Revolution who has ended a few day visit to Algeria said an important work has been done in the way of boosting ties between Algeria and Libya. In a statement before departure he said that a working group has been set up to examine ways of promoting bilateral relations, particularly after the recent meeting of the leaders of the two countries in Ayn 'Amenas (south of Algeria).

Talks between the two delegations held in a frank atmosphere were centered on the edification of the unity of the Arab Maghreb and the necessity to develop exchanges of visits between the two countries. As for talks he had here with Algerian officials, Jallud said they took up also the oil market and its repercussions on OPEC as well as the situation in the Arab world.

Iranian Foreign, Oil Ministers Arrive in Algiers

LD171214 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, 17/02/86 (APS) — Iranian ministers of foreign affairs and oil, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Gholam Reza Aqazadeh arrived yesterday in Algiers at the head of a high level delegation.

The visit of the Iranian ministers of foreign affairs and oil falls in line with the tripartite meeting between Algeria, Iran and Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In this context, the Libyan minister of oil had to examine the consequences due to the deterioration of the oil market and measures to step up to face up the situation.

Algiers Notes Tripartite Oil Meetings, Policies

LD172041 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Another tripartite meeting, this time in Algiers, between Algeria, Iran and Libya on the falling oil market, which is viewed as an overt economic attack.

The meeting has a special dimension: The officials in charge of foreign affairs and finance of the three countries are associated with the discussions.

The Iranian delegation includes Foreign Minister Velayati, Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani, and Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh. The Libyan delegation includes Secretary for Energy [as heard] Fawzi al-Shakshuki, Secretary for the Treasury Sharlalah, and Deputy Secretary [as heard] (Shahhat). Algeria is represented by Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi, Energy Minister Belkacem Nabi, and Finance Minister Khellaf. This meeting is broader, thus conforming with the recommendations of the last meeting, held in Tripoli on 3 February.

This broadened concerted action will allow the oil situation to be studied from all angles. In this context, the Algiers meeting should allow for an exchange of views between the three countries on all the implications of the serious deterioration in the oil market.

Authorized sources say that these exchanges of views proceed aim to return OPEC to its proper place in the world market, as well as return oil prices to a level compatible with the interests of producer countries and their development needs.

The position of the three countries — Algeria, Iran and Libya — to achieve these aims, remains unchanged. They still recommend maintaining current OPEC prices and reducing production, an option already applied by Iran, which has reduced its production by half.

For these three countries, which favor an offensive policy for OPEC to fix prices rather than (?put up with) them, the only way out for the organization is an overall concerted action in which all exporting countries take part, including those not belonging to OPEC.

LIBYA

Tripoli Coverage on Outbreak of Fighting in Chad

French Defense Minister Arrives in Chad

LD141704 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena 14 Feb (JANA) — French Defense Minister Paul Quiles has arrived in Ndjamena to supervise the operation of deliveries of French military hardware to the rebel Habre clique. During his stay in Ndjamena, the French minister also will have talks with rebel Habre on the deliveries of additional military equipment.

Habre Asks For More Troops

LD141916 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 14 Feb 85

[Text] Ndjamena, 14 Feb (JANA) — French Defence Minister Paul Quiles has arrived in Ndjamena to supervise the operation of supplying mutineer Hissein Habre's clique with French military equipment. The French minister has held talks with the mutineer Habre during his presence in Ndjamena, during which the mutineer Habre asked for more French troops to be dispatched to Chad.

U.S., French Aid Criticized

LD151509 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. State Department has announced that the U.S. Government has decided to send $6 million in military supplies to the mutineer Habre in Chad to complete what he described as French security assistance to Habre. The spokesman said the U.S. Government is in close contact with Habre and the French Government. We shed more light on this subject in the following report:

The mutineer Habre continues the policy of terror and oppression against the sons of the Chadian people. He practices the most abominable means of torture and destruction against every patriotic person who opposes his policy, a policy of sedition and division which creates an opportunity for colonial intervention in Chad.

The U.S. State Department spokesman said Reagan's government is in close contact with the mutineer Habre with a view to continuing their ferocious campaign against the Chadian patriots in order to eliminate them by the fiercest methods of killing and torture, using devastating weapons which the U.S. Government recently decided to send to the hirelings of the mutineer Habre in Ndjamena. The mutineer Habre has asked for more French troops to protect him from the popular Chadian revolution which Habre can longer confront.

News reports indicate that French military equipment has started to arrive in Ndjamena, including heavy guns, armored vehicles, and machineguns. It is known that the French defense minister has arrived in Ndjamena to supervize the arrival of

French military equipment to the hirelings of the mutineer Habre in Ndjamena. Furthermore, France has placed its forces in several African countries on full alert. Reports from Libreville say thousands of French soldiers presently stationed in Central Africa, Gabon, and the Ivory Coast have been put on full alert.

By pouring in weapons and intensifying foreign protection to the mutineer Habre, the situation in Chad becomes more tense and this in turn escalates the popular rejection and revolution against the mutineer Habre, who has resorted to foreign intervention to protect himself from the raging national revolution engulfing Chad.

French Soldiers Depart for Chad

NC171132 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] According to information from the (Boir) base in the CAR, 300 vehicles, including 50 tanks, left for Chad via Cameroon on Friday. JANA has learned that 1500 French soldiers left for Chad from the airport in Bangui, the capital of the CAR, on Saturday. Six hundred other French soldiers arrived in Bangui on the same day and then flew to Chad.

French Aircraft Raid Civilian Airfield

LD161505 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] This morning French military aircraft raided a civilian airfield in the liberated part of northern Chad which is under the control of the Chadian Government of National Unity. This civilian airfield raided by the French military aircraft is being used to handle relief supplies, food and medicine for the victims of famine in northern Chad.

GUNT Forces Bomb Ndjamena Airport

LD170848 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0826 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Faya-Largeau 17 Feb (JANA) — JANA has learned that the Chadian Air Force of the GUNT [National Union Transition Government] on Monday morning 17 February carried out an air raid on the Ndjamena airport which is used by the Habre forces for military purposes. The raid resulted in the destruction of the airport, which is no longer useable. It has also been learned that all aircraft taking part in this raid returned safely to base.

Sources close to the GUNT said that this raid was in retaliation for the strike by French military aircraft on the civilian airfield of Ouadi Doum, which belongs to the GUNT in northern Chad and is used for civilian purposes, especially for transporting supplies and medicines to victims of the famine in northern Chad.

Tripoli 'Surprised' by Fighting

LD161345 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Feb (JANA) — Fighting between the two warring parties has broken out again in Chad. Its outbreak was a surprise to all the parties interested in putting an end to this tragic, bloody conflict, which deprived this fraternal country of the blessings of settlement and security for more than a quarter of a century. We in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah were among those who were surprised by the development of events and the outbreak of fighting.

The outbreak of fighting in Chad at this moment, whatever its implications, and regardless of who is responsible, represents a halt in the attempts being made by the African parties concerned to find a peaceful solution and negotiation to the Chadian problem. It is also a deliberate obstacle to the sincere African endeavor to make the Chadian problem an African problem and to prevent foreign powers from outside the continent from interfering in it.

The SPLAJ together with the concerned African parties, and especially with the Senegalese president, Brother Abdou Diouf, chairman of the OAU, have made efforts to activate a peaceful solution by means of negotiation among all the Chadian parties.

Libya has always been committed to what it has promised. Despite the ambiguity of the situation in Chad at present, as we do not know who started the fighting and as the news reports fighting around Oum Chalouba — to our knowledge, Oum Chalouba is situated directly north of the 16th parallel and this puts a question mark on who started the fighting. [sentence as received] It is situated in the area known to be under the control of GUNT forces. Did Habre's forces start the attack to take it from GUNT forces, or was it previously occupied by Habre's forces, and GUNT tried to liberate it and then started the attack?

Libya has in all circumstances and whatever the implications believes that the outbreak of fighting now cannot be but a blow directed at African efforts to solve the Chadian problem peacefully, and, proceeding from this standpoint, calls on both sides to put an end to the fighting immediately and allow for continued African efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Chadian problem.

Syria's Al-Asad Contacts Al-Qadhdhafi

LD142015 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today contacted the brother leader of the revolution in connection with the situation in Chad.

JANA Comments on U.S. Maneuvers, French Role in Chad

LD171839 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 17 Feb 86

["JANA's commentator: They Tested Us and Found Us a Stubborn Fortress" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Athani 6, Feb 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Today the provocative manoeuvres of the 6th Fleet opposite the Libyan Arab Gulf of Sidra were concluded. They were the second manoeuvres the U.S. naval and air forces staged in the same location in less than a month.

The U.S. aircraft carriers and other ships of support and guard returned to their bases in Western Europe - the *Coral Sea* aircraft (?vessel) returned to Catania Italian port in Sicily island while the aircraft carrier *Saratoga* headed towards the Adriatic, the remaining vessels headed for the Messina Strait.

A JANA commentator said: "These U.S. hostile challenges and provocations against the Libyan Arab people did not achieve but more adherence to our stances. They have tested us and found us seriously determined to defend our existence, dignity and land, found us a stubtorn fortress that faces (?challenge) with challenge".

The commentator went on to say: "The U.S. government, which realised that if it wanted to reach an understanding with us, it must admit that we have a legitimate right and we are the vanguard of the nation which has the whole southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea and that we - the Libyan Arabs - have the [words indistinct] coast in that part, we are a part of the region. As for the U.S. fleet and the Israeli entity, they are outsiders to the region.

"The U.S. hostile provocative manoeuvres had once more confirmed the Libyan Arab people's soviereignty on the Gulf of Sidra and that all the nations of the earth stood on our side because we have a right. Everyone was convinced that the real terrorists are the U.S. and the Israelis who were driven out of the Mediterranean".

The commentator added: "Nations of the world wonder now what to call the hijacking of the Libyan civil aeroplane, the hijacking of the Egypt Air aeroplane, the violation of the Tunisian air space and the daily violation of the air spaces and territories of Lebanon by the use of military force".

The commentator confirmed that the lesson gained from these provocative manoeuvres against the Libyan Arab people is that challenge must be confronted by challenge. Response [words indistinct] gains masses' respect and support from all the nations of the world. "We would like to stress here that only the Arab unity is the deterrent of threats and imperialist provocations and faces all challenges".

JANA's commentator brought back to the mind that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [words indistinct] and still calls, for the turning of the Mediterranean Sea into a lagoon of peace and security free from foreign fleets. It rejects the language of threats to use force and economic [words indistinct] it worked, and is working, towards the mastery of the language of peace and mutual respect. It believes in the importance of coopeation between the Arab nation and Europe.

JANA's commentator concluded by saying: "We would like to express our regrets that these U.S. manoeuvres had ended by France's return on our southern borders and its assault on a civilian airport used to receive relief aid for the famine victims in northern Chad. At the same time we wonder: Is what is happening [words indistinct] change in roles? America has gone for a recess and France took its role. It is a pity we feel that socialist Mitterrand becomes a deputy to Nazi right-wing Reagan".

Air, Naval Maneuvers To Continue Until 18 Feb

LD151527 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Feb (JANA) — Libyan Arab air and naval forces and the air defense forces today continued their maneuvers with live ammunition for the 8th successive day. These maneuvers — which will continue until 18 February — are taking place in the Mediterranean and outside the Libyan Arab Gulf of Sidra.

Rules Issued for Volunteering for Military Service

LD150241 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0045 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces has issued a decree concerning the principles regulating the service of Arab volunteers in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces. Following is the text of the decree:

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces, after considering law Number 40 of 1974 concerning service in the Armed Forces; law Number 35 of 1977 concerning the reorganization of the Armed Forces; and law Number 5 of 1978 concerning the amendment of some military laws and the historic announcement of accepting Arab volunteers in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces; and in order to amass Arab capabilities in the [words indistinct] battle, has decided:

Item 1: Voluntary service in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces is open to all Arab servicemen whose service has ended in their own countries in accordance with the following conditions and taking into consideration the conditions of acceptance into military service as stipulated in law Number 40 of 1974 concerning service in the Armed Forces which does not contradict the rulings of this decree:

1. Must be of Arab nationality and not married to a foreigner;
2. His service must not have been terminated due to bad behavior or [words indistinct];
3. Must not have been convicted of a crime or [words indistinct];
4. Not more than 4 years must have passed since he was discharged from service in his own country;
5. Must be suitable [words indistinct];
6. His speciality must fall in line with specialities required by the Armed Forces;
7. His rank must not be higher than [words indistinct];
8. The volunteer must accept the speciality and [words indistinct] allocated to him;
9. [Words indistinct].

Item 2: Requests to volunteer are to be made to the Brotherhood or People's Bureau according to the situation, which, in turn, will familiarize volunteers with the conditions of acceptance and open files for them. The completed files will be submitted to the General Command, which will examine the volunteers' requests and discuss the extent of their fulfillment of the conditions.

Item 3: The General Command will inform the Brotherhood or People's Bureau whether the volunteer has been accepted [words indistinct] and would be sent to the Jamahiriyah. The General Command would be informed by cable of the volunteers' date of arrival.

Item 4: The Directorate of Military Protocol will welcome and host the volunteers, and bring them for medical inspection and personal interview at the places and times specified by the General Command authority.

Item 5: After the medical exam and personal interview, the organization and administration section will prepare the appointment and [words indistinct] proposals and submit them to the General Command to affect appointment procedures.

Item 6: The command in chief of the Armed Forces will issue decrees of the appointment of officers, and for the appointment of NCO's and soldiers.

Item 7: The volunteer will be subject to all the laws, statues and orders in force in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Item 8: [Passage indistinct].

Item 9: The volunteer will be granted the salary and all other financial privilages accorded to his counterpart in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Item 10: It would be permissible to award the volunteer Libyan military medals and orders if he deserves them.

Item 11: A section for Arab volunteers will be set up at the General Command which will assume responsibility for all their affairs and will prepare a special record of officers' [words indistinct] and another of NCO's and soldiers.

Item 12: In calculating pension, the date of appointment will be considered to be the date of the period in which the volunteer's pension payment is to be claimed.

Item 13: Arab volunteers' service will be ended for the same reasons as Libyan servicemen's service ends.

Item 14: [Passage indistinct].

Item 15: The commander in chief of the Armed Forces will implement this decree and establish executive procedures for it. The decreee will be effective from the date of its issuance, and all other rulings will be cancelled.

Further Details

LD150300 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0055 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The Arab volunteers' section at the General Command authority of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces has addressed a call to all Arab citizens and their sons and daughters to join various branches of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and military colleges and schools. Following is its text: As confirmation of the resolutions of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses which were held in Libyan Arab territory in an extraordinary session in order to confront the imperialist and U.S. flagrant and unjustified threats against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the General Command invites all sons and daughters of brother Arabs, members of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses in the Jamahiriyah to join the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Navy, Air Force, air defense and military colleges and schools affiliated to those forces, according to the following conditions:

1. The volunteer must be of Arab nationality and must not be married to a foreigner;
2. The volunteer must be medically suitable for work during the voluntary period;
3. The volunteer will be given the rank he had when he left the armed forces he belonged to, and his previous service will be taken into account;
4. The volunteer may wear the military medals and decorations he had been awarded during his previous service providing he has proved that he deserved them;
5. The volunteer will be granted the salary and all other financial privilages accorded to his counterpart in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces;
6. The volunteer may be awarded military medals and decorations if he deserves them;
7. The law of service and all military laws in force in the Armed Forces will be applied to the volunteer in the same it is applied to his Libyan counterparts.

The volunteer will be treated like a Libyan serviceman in every way. While pointing this out, the General Command authority of the Armed Forces urges all Arab brothers, members of the pan-Arab basic people's congresses, to take the initiative of urging their sons and daughters to join, in order to amass Arab capabilities for the war of liberation, for return and for building up military strength to confront U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

[Signed] The General Command Authority of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces

Iran's Besharati Affirms Anti-U.S. Support

LD171530 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Feb (JANA) — Brother Besharati, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the special envoy of Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, this morning arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Brother Besharati reiterated, in a statement he made to JANA upon arrival at Tripoli international airport, the solidarity and the support of the Iranian people and the Iranian Islamic revolution for the Libyan Arab people in its courageous confrontation with the American imperialist threats and provocative maneuvers being held opposite Libyan Arab shores. This solidarity and support affirm the eternal cohesion between the two revolutions, the Libyan and the Iranian.

He added that the conspiracies being hatched against our two countries and our revolutions compel us to continue the contacts in order to construct some unified stances to confront imperialism and reaction, pointing out that the Ba'thist fascist regime in Iraq will shortly be breathing its last and that the Iraqi Muslim people will be liberated from the fascist hegemony.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD162001 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1631 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Feb (JANA) — Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ].

Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi made a statement to a JANA correspondent and expressed his happiness and the happiness of the delegation accompanying him to be visiting the SPLAJ. He added that this visit comes as a continuation of the dialogue which was initiated by the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid. This dialogue was also cojtinued during the visit of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud to Algeria last week which produced good results. He added: We are here today to continue this dialogue in the interest of the Arab people in Algeria and Libya.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD161717 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Feb (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution this afternoon received brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Politburo of the Algerian FLN party and minister of foreign affairs, and the envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi conveyed a message to the brother leader of the revolution from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid concerning the situation in the Arab Maghreb, Africa and the bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries.

Further Details

LD171652 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday afternoon received Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Algerian FLN and foreign minister, and envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid. Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi conveyed a message to the brother leader of the revolution from President Chadli Bendjedid concerning the situation in the Arab Maghreb, Africa and bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries. More light on this in the following report:

The visit by Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, to the Jamahiriyah is confirmation of the continuing dialogue and unity between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria which stems from the spirit of brotherhood and understanding resulting from the meeting between the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid in the town of Ain 'Amenas on the 22 January. This dialogue was continued during the visit paid by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud to Algeria last week, which stressed a move towards unity in the Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation in realization of the aspirations of the Arab nation in the Arab Maghreb and the objectives and ambitions of our Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf. [sentence as heard]

Brother Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi stressed that his visit to the Jamahiriyah was to continue the dialogue in recognition of the Arab people in Algeria and the Jamahiriyah. He also stressed that the meeting between the brother leader of the revolution and Brother Chadli Bendjedid recently has given a strong push to the talks held during the visit paid by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud to Algeria and that bilateral relations between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria have been established since the outbreak of the great Al-Fatih Revolution. Meetings and revolutionary integration between the two revolutions and the two fraternal peoples have confirmed that feelings of unity exist in Algeria as they exist in the Jamahiriyah and the Arab nation. Therefore, meetings and continued dialogue among brothers liberates and protects the strength and existence of the Arab nation.

Jallud Briefs Al-Qadhdhafi on Visit to Algeria

LD152017 Tripoli JANA in English 1735 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli. Jumada Athani 4, Feb. 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution today met Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud who briefed him on the results of his working visit to Algeria and positive results achieved as from the talks which took place there.

SUDAN

Foreign Ministry Appeals for End to Chad Fighting

EA172006 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) — Sudan has appealed to all the fighting groups in sisterly Chad to lay down their arms and to give up confrontation as a prelude to the conflicting parties sitting round a negotiation table to find a durable solution to the Chadian problem based on a formula acceptable to all. This was stated in a Foreign Ministry statement issued here today on the incidents and confrontation taking place between brothers in neighborly Chad, particularly as reports over the last few days say that fighting has resumed [words indistinct] and its fires extinguished.

In view of this grave situation which threatens the security of sisterly Chad and whose adverse effects might extend to neighboring countries and threaten the stability of parts of their territory, Sudan appeals to the fighting groups to search for peace and abandon confrontation.

The Sudanese Government and all the Sudanese people are hopeful that the brothers in Chad will reach an effective solution after which they can turn their attention to the issues of construction and development. This is a time when all African states are facing dangers as a result of accumulated foreign debts and the effects of drought and desertification which cover vast areas of the continent. There is no doubt that war will aggravate these problems.

The statement says that within the framework of its support for efforts toward a peaceful solution under the direction of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, the current OAU chairman -- entrusted to him by the Congolese President, Sassou-Nguesso, to bring the two sides together and settle the quarrel between the Chadian brothers -- Sudan appeals to all the parties to the conflict to commit themselves to the OAU resolutions which stress the legitimacy of the government of Hissein Habre. It calls for the differences between brothers to be settled by peaceful means. As it makes this brotherly appeal to the conflicting parties, Sudan stresses its respect for the sovereignty of states, their independence and territorial integrity, and noninterference in their internal affairs.

Prime Minister Expresses Regret Over Strikes

JN171450 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA) — Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Daf‘allah has expressed regret over the continuation of strikes by the public utilities — strikes which will have an adverse effect on citizens. This came during his regular meetings with media officials this morning. The prime minister also stressed that under a democracy he does not support the idea of inflicting legal punishment on trade unionists, such as imprisonment and detention, pointing out that only dictatorial systems take such actions.

Clashes at Cairo University Branch Renewed

JN171209 Khartoum SUNA in English 1038 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 17 (SUNA) — Police forces here interfered for the second time to stop the clashes which renewed between the disputed students at Cairo (Khartoum Branch) University. The daily *AL-AYYAM* issued today reported that some students were injured as a result of these clashes. The students union claimed that it had no knowledge about yesterday's clashes which were stopped after police used tear-gas bombs.

Energy Minister, Delegation Leave for Libya

JN151730 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (SUNA) — Engineer ‘Abd al-‘Aziz ‘Uthman, minister of energy, industry, and mining, left for Libya this afternoon heading a Sudanese delegation at the start of a tour that will also include Morocco and Egypt. The minister said he will hold talks with officials in these countries on bilateral economic cooperation, especially in the fields of leather industry, tanneries, and textiles. He said that he will also discuss the supply of oil and the establishment of electric and water power stations. The delegation accompanying the minister includes representatives from the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Trade, the General Petroleum Corporation, and the Bank of Sudan.

Uganda's Okello Reportedly To Request Asylum

JN150926 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 15 — The deposed Ugandan President Tito Okello, who is currently in Juba-southern Sudan, will arrive to Khartoum current week and is expected to ask for political asylum rights in the Sudan, the daily *AL-SAHAFAH* issued here today reported.

The Sudanese authorities gave guarantees to the Ugandan delegation who visit Khartoum last week that Sudan would not allow Okello and his supporters to practice any aggressive activities against Uganda through the Sudanese territories. On the other hand the New Ugandan [rulers] will not accept any aggression activities against Sudan through the Ugandan territories.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Algerian Prime Minister

LD171533 Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 17/02/86 (APS) — Dr. Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, was received Monday morning by the Tunisian president, Habib Bourguiba to whom he transmitted a message from President Chadli Bendjedid. Taleb Ibrahimi arrived Sunday to Tunis coming from Tripoli, capital of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, where he handed a message of the head of state to President Mu‘ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Dr. Ibrahimi left today Tunis.

Bourguiba Receives 'Urgent Message' From Chad's Habre

AB141457 Paris AFP in French 1422 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Tunis, 14 Feb (AFP) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba on Friday received an "urgent" message from Chadian President Hissein Habre on the "bloody events" currently taking place in northern Chad and which are likely "to compromise security and the relative stability which the brotherly Chadian people had begon to enjoy," the TUNISIAN NEWS AGENCY, TAP, indicated. No details were given on the contents of the message which was delivered on Friday to President Bourguiba by Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi.

During the audience, President Bourguiba expressed his "deep concern" over the situation in Chad. He also expressed the hope that the military operations would be stopped and that "peace would be restored to enable the Chadians to continue its progress on the path of national reconciliation and recover its unity, outside any foreign interference," TAP said.

ETHIOPIA

PMAC Establishes Constitution Drafting Committee

LD141859 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] The PMAC today issued a decree to establish a commission to draft the constitution. The decree states that the commissions aim will be to draft a constitution by which a people's democratic republic of Ethiopia will be established and administered, present the draft to the people for discussion and to improve the draft in accordance with the opinions derived from the discussions.

The commission, which will be answerable to the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee, is empowered and charged with issuing briefings on the draft constitution to the people, replying to queries from the people and explaining, disseminating and presenting the draft constitution to the people for discussion.

According to the decree, the commission will have one (?congress), one Executive Committee, regional, (?provincial) and district discussion coordinating committees, revolutionary armed forces discussion coordination committees and [word indistinct] discussion coordinating committees.

SOMALIA

Opposition Radio Reports Recent Clashes

EA142021 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Fighters of the Somali National Movement, SNM, wing of the Somali Opposition forces, fiercely attacked troops loyal to Siad Barre stationed at Balidid and Qrilugid villages in Burao district on February 1986.

The gallant SNM fighters inflicted heavy losses on the dispirited troops loyal to the fascist regime of Mogadishu. They captured Lt Abdi Farah Hasan, serial No 46750, and Cpl Kassim Wahilye Culosow, serial No 220997.

On the same day, the gallant SNM fighters made a similar attack on the troops loyal to the moribund regime headed by General Siad Barre stationed at Ala Ibaday village in Gabiley District, killing 8 and wounding over 23 enemy soldiers.

Other reports on continuing successes scored by SNM fighters against the troops loyal to General Siyad Barre say that in two separate attacks launched by the SNM on Borama area and Qolijeed village in Awdal region the deaths of five and wounding of four enemy soldiers are confirmed.

The reports go on to say that the SNM fighters attacked troops loyal to Siad Barre stationed at Labi Sagaleh village in Hargeisa district, killing four enemy soldiers.

The SNM lost three martyrs and four others were wounded in their operations in the north of the country.

UGANDA

Moi Asks Museveni To Permit Okello's Return

EA141440 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1020 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] His Excellency, President Daniel Arap Moi, today appealed to the Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, to allow his predecessor, General Tito Okello, to return and live in peace in Uganda.

The president noted that Gen Tito Okello was only misled by his colleagues during his administration and he should, therefore, be allowed to return as he was an old man of 70 years.

President Moi, also called on the entire police force to mobilize in order to arrest those people spreading malicious rumours in central province. He said people spreading rumours about the school milk were agents and puppets of colonialists. They should be apprehended immediately.

President Moi was speaking at the Kenya Police College, Kiganjo, where he presided over the passing-out parade of 658 recruits.

Museveni Sends Envoys To Avert Showdown

EA181044 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 18 Feb 86 p 24

[Unattributed report: "Museveni in Bid To Avert Bloody War"]

[Excerpts] President Yoweri Museveni has sent emissaries to northern Uganda in a diplomatic effort to avert a bloody showdown with soldiers of the recently ousted military government, a Western diplomat said today.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the emissaries were meeting with civilian and military leaders in the north to seek a peaceful alternative to an all-out assault on the holdout [as received] troops by Mr Museveni's National Resistance Army.

The diplomat also said Mr Museveni's government was questioning an American and a New Zealander about possible links to the ousted army. He said the government had confiscated the passports of the two men but was permitting them to move about in the Kampala area while an investigation is under way.

Mr Museveni has indicated that Lt-Gen Okello, if captured by the NRA, would be tried for alleged human rights violations.

Also today, the Central Bank of Uganda unveiled pictures of new sh500, sh1,000 and sh5,000 bank notes. A Central Bank source, who asked not to be identified by name, said the new notes should be in circulation by the end of this week. He said they were ordered printed by the Okello government.

NRM Troops Said Preparing To Attack Lira

EA151108 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Reports from Kampala say that troops of the NRM [National Revolutionary Movement] are preparing to attack the town of Lira in northern Uganda. The reports said that the NRA [National Revolutionary Army] is advancing on Lira after capturing the town of Soroti 2 days ago. Observers say that Lira is the last stronghold of the former government forces before their main base at Gulu. Western diplomatic sources in the Ugandan capital said the NRA is likely to capture Gulu in the next few weeks [as heard] and predicted that the soldiers would be heartily welcomed by the northerners.

NRA Launches Recruitment Drive To Bolster Ranks

EA171358 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English
17 Feb 86 p 1

[Excerpts] A massive recruitment drive to beef up the ranks of the NRA is underway and political analysts said yesterday that it appeared to be in readiness for a final push against defeated troops regrouped in the north.

Local newspapers and the official radio Uganda have carried a government statement in the past three days urging able-bodied Ugandans willing to join the NRA to report at various recruitment centres in the west on Tuesday.

The analysts said the exercise could signal a massive offensive on Gulu, the northern home-base of ousted Ugandan leader General Tito Okello.

Travelers from the north reported that the NRA was making a slow but steady drive north from the south-west and south-east and that its forces were 40 km from Lira, the last major town before Gulu.

The NRA captured Soroti town in eastern Uganda four days agobut its second advance, from the south-west, has been blocked at the strategic Karuma falls bridge on the Nile.

The NRA has never disclosed the size of its well-disciplined fighting force, but estimates put it at around 8,000, hundreds of whom are war orphans, some aged only seven. The current recruitment drive could also be aimed at revamping its ranks, stretched to the limit by the current campaign, the analysts said.

An independent English language daily *THE EQUATOR*, reported yesterday that President Yoweri Museveni's government would soon issue a legal proclamation spelling out its legal basis and stating that it would stay in power for four years before general elections are held.

Quoting reliable sources close to the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM), the daily, whose editor, Mr John Bagenda-Mpiima, is the chairman of the Uganda journalists Association (UJA), reported that the legal publication to be issued soon would spell out the time-table of the new government.

The Ugandan government has not confirmed or denied the report of *THE EQUATOR*. efforts to obtain comment on this report by top-ranking NRM officials were fruitless.

And the executive council of the Uganda Journalists Association (UJA) has noted with satisfaction the free atmosphere under which the press in Uganda was now operating. In a press release issued after its meeting yesterday in Kampala it observed that since the coming to power of the National Resistance Movement, "there has been a general and significant improvement in the country's security".

CHAD

Quiles Says France Will Respect Defense Commitments

AB141356 Paris AFP in French 1259 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 14 February (AFP) — France will respect its commitments as far as Chad's defense is concerned. This was stated on Friday in Ndjamena by French Defense Minister Paul Quiles who had just held discussions with Chadian President Hissein Habre concerning the military situation in northern Chad.

Following his discussions with President Habre, Mr Quiles told the press that France will give material and military assistance to Chad "within the framework of the military cooperation agreement" between both countries.

The French defense minister, who left Ndjamena for Bangui immediately after his discussions with Mr Habre, added that "the French forces stationed in the Central African Republic can be of interest for the defense of Chad."

Mr Quiles is accompanied to Chad and the Central African Republic by General Brette, deputy chief of staff of the French Armed Forces.

Received by President Habre

AB142009 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, received shortly before the extraordinary cabinet meeting the French defense minister, Paul Quiles, who arrived last night in Ndjamena because of the situation in Chad caused by Al-Qadhdhafi and his men.

Shortly before leaving Ndjamena International Airport for Bangui, Central African Republic, Paul Quiles said that France would honor its commitments in Chad, and expressed faith in the ability of the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] to restore the situation created in northern part of the country, in a statement he made to the national press. Let us listen to what he said.

[Begin recording] [Quiles] I came in fact to meet President Hissein Habre on short notice. We held a lengthy meeting this morning and we examined the situation. Obviously by the situation, I mean the situation of the FANT following the attack south of the 16th parallel. I can assure you that France will honor its commitments. Military cooperation exists between France and Chad. We will give the Chadian Government the help it needs.

[Unintentified reporter] Is the French Government sure now that, as the Chadian Government has always said, it is the Libyan forces that have always attacked FANT positions?
[Quiles] I think that our Chadian friends have pertinent facts on this issue, but in view of these facts, we cannot think otherwise.

[Unindentified reporter] In view of the attack south of the 16th parallel, does France intend to do something more concrete in addition to supplying artillery and arms?

[Quiles] Listen, I cannot give you details about my talks with President Hissein Habre. What I can tell you and what will be concretized is that France will respect its military cooperation agreement with Chad.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, France and Libya signed an agreement for the withdrawal of their troops from Chad. It is a fact that France respected this agreement, while Libyan troops remained and strengthened their positions in the north of our country, and they recently attacked FANT positions. What is the philosophy behind this agreement you signed with Libya? What is France's stand in view of the present of situation?
[Quiles] When a country signs an agreement with another country, it is hoped that this agreement will be respected. History abounds with examples of countries which do not respect agreements. We have noted — and it is the aim of our visit to Ndjamena — we have noted that this agreement was not respected, and as I said earlier, in view of this new situation, France will help Chad.

[Unidentified reporter] From Chad you are heading for the CAR where some French troops are stationned. (?Is this in connection) with the situation?
[Quiles] It is normal that as the French defense minister, I should inspect French forces stationed in the CAR. That is the aim of my trip to Bangui. It is obvious that the French troops stationed in Bangui could help, to a certain degree, in defending Chad.

[Unidentified reporter] Politically, is the French initiative [words indistinct] reconciliation in Chad?

[Quiles] France does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of Chad. There was an agreement. There was an agreement. The agreement was violated. We will help the Chadian Government, since we are friends, but I cannot tell you anymore, except that after my meeting with President Hissein Habre, I am confident that the Chadian troops are capable of restoring the situation in the country to normal. [end recording]

France Begins Arms Deliveries Through Cameroon

AB141340 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Libreville, Feb 14 (AFP) — France today began sending new supplies of arms to the Chadian government to help it counter attacks by Libyan-backed rebels, an authoritative source said here. The equipment, including armoured cars with 90 mm guns, had arrived at the port of Douala in Cameroon and was being sent on to Chad by air and road, the source said.

At the same time, all French Jaguar warplanes based in Africa under defence agreements with various countries had been concentrated at Bangui, capital of Central African Republic, which borders Chad, bringing the total there to more than 15. In addition, two French Breguet-Atlantique reconnaissance planes were already carrying out observation missions over the conflict zone, the source said. Some 3,000 French combat troops based in the Central African Republic, and an additional 600 in Libreville had been placed on alert.

Concern over the fighting among diplomats here has risen perceptibly with the attack on Zigey, which Chad's ambassador to Paris, Allam-Mi Ahmad, said earlier today had been repulsed and "Libyan troops" routed.

In Ndjamena, French Defence Minister Paul Quiles arrived early today and went straight into talks with President Hissene Habre lasting more than an hour. No details were given of their discussions.

Western diplomats in Libreville said the two sides were fairly well-balanced, with 7,500 men on the government side and 8,000 fighting for the GUNT. However, the rebels were said to be better equipped.

President Cited on French Air Force Raid

AB161528 Paris AFP in French 1448 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Feb (AFP) -- Chadian President Hissein Habre stated in Ndjamena on Sunday that he was "aware" that the French Air Force was about to attack the airfield in Ouadi Doum (northern Chad) which, according to him, falls "within the framework of a request of French military assistance" by Ndjamena on 10 February. The French Air Force, it is recalled, on Sunday morning at 0800, attacked the airfield constructed by the Libyans at Ouadi Doum (150 km northeast of Faya-Largeau). According to reliable sources, the airfield was destroyed.

Thanks to the airfield, observers point out, Abeche (eastern Chad) and even Ndjamena can be reached by the Libyan Air Force. "It was a true stronghold," President Hissein Habre stated, equipped with a 4,000-meter airfield, protected by SAM missiles and other types of anti-aircraft guns. The Chadian head of state stated that all "the French aircraft had returned to their bases", but did not, however, give details on the damages caused by the attack. Concerning possible Libyan repraisals, Hissein Habre stated: "We are expecting anything:" "The war is continuing," he added.

The Chadian president, who was addressing a group of reporters, said that "all was calm on the battlefield" at present. Ndjamena, he asserted, knew "that troop movement had begun 3 months ago in the northern part of the country, thus clearly indicating that an offensive was brewing." It will be recalled that since 10 February fighting has resumed along the 16th parallel, at Oum Chalouba-Kalait, and at Koro Toro and Zigey, the last position being further south of the "Red Line" drawn by the French during "Operation Manta" in 1983-84. "We have asked the French Government as of this date to help us face external aggression," President Habre added.

Continuing Reportage on Fighting in North

53 Libyans Reported Killed

AB141256 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] The patriotic forces, in the face of the invasion troops, have the situation in hand effectively at Koro Toro. This happened day before yesterday. With the determination for which they are known, the intrepid soldiers of the Chadian national armed forces, conscious of the active support of the entire Chadian forces, assumed their historic responsibility.

As in Kouba Olanga, our forces inflicted a bitter defeat on the Libyan annexationists who are now on the run in Koro Toro which they had earlier attacked. The result of this fighting is as follows: Our forces killed 53 Libyans and wounded 27 others. They recovered 18 military vehicles — 3 Toyota vehicles equipped with surface-to-surface missiles; 4 Toyota vehicles equipped with 14.5 mm double barrel guns; 2 Toyota vehicles equipped with BU-7 machineguns; 3 general purpose vehicles equipped with 36 mm guns; and 6 Toyota transport vehicles. During the fighting, our patriotic forces suffered one casualty, who was killed on the battlefield while six others were wounded.

14 Feb Communique

AB141922 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Communique issued at the end of cabinet meeting on 14 February under the chairmanship of President El-Hadj Hissein Habre; read by the minister delegate to the presidency in charge of information, Mohamat Soumaila — live or recorded]

[Text] The government which held an extraordinary session under the chairmanship of Comrade El-Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the republic, head of state and chairman of the cabinet, on this day, Friday 14 February 1986, informs national and international public opinion of the following:

The current situation in our country is the result of Libya's permanent occupation and aggression which has once again, in its macabre aim of annexing Chad and enslave Chadians, attacked our armed positions on 10, 11, 12, and 13 February 1986 at Kouba Olanga, Kalait, Koro Toro and Zigey. The energetic and patriotic counterattack of our Armed Forces restored the situation to normal, inflicting heavy human and material losses to the enemy. However, Libya, which has been occupying Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti for over 2 years, and the Aouzou region for over 10 years, continues to strengthen its military, administrative, and human presence in the occupied zone, and seeks to achieve total control over the country.

That is why, after carefully examining the situation, the government once more reminds the nation that Chad [words indistinct] in its existence by Libyan ambitions. To face such a challenge, only general mobilization based on awareness for permanent commitment constitutes the saving grace for the fatherland, for peace, and for development. It is only when we recover, by all means possible, our territory occupied by Libya, that the efforts of reconstruction and reconciliation begun on 7 June 1982 will have meaning.

In this regard, the government praises the spontaneous, courageous, and patriotic gesture of our sisters who, during the support march organized by the National Union for Independence and Revolution on 13 February 1986, offered all they had to our fighting forces. They decided to give up, in pursuance of this act of patriotism, a month's worth of their salaries as their contribution to the war effort. Consequently, the government calls for increased mobilization, and active participation of the Chadian people on the side of the Chadian National Armed Forces.

Signed in Ndjamena on 14 February 1986

Government Forces Kill 92 Libyans

AB150610 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT], faithful to their duty which is to defend and to serve the fatherland, have once again demonstrated their capability by repulsing the enemy from Oum Chalouba and Kalait. Our forces therefore inflicted a bitter defeat to the Libyan annexationists. The enemy is now on the run. As in Kouba Olanga and in Koro Toro, the FANT have, in Zigey, killed 92 Libyans and captured 172 prisoners. They recovered 312 individual weapons, 23 bazookas, 6 Toyota and 2 Mercedez vehicles. Therefore, the situation is clearly in the hands of our forces in all the localities.

French Paratroopers Arrive in Ndjamena

AB161128 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, Feb 16 (AFP) — Some 200 French paratroopers have landed in the Chadian capital Ndjamena as the French Defense Ministry announced in Paris that French combat planes today bombed a Libyan-built airfield in the rebel-held north of the country.

Very reliable sources in Ndjamena said the French paratroopers had been deployed overnight Friday at the city's airport and that French Jaguar and Mirage combat planes could arrive soon from bases in neighboring states.

French Planes Attack Ouadi Doum

AB161954 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] In retaliation to Libyan attacks, French warplanes attacked Ouadi Doum base today. The Chadian Government appreciates this bombardment of the Ouadi Doum base, which constitutes with Fada, bases from where Libya forces have been launching their attacks on government posts. It was from Ouadi Doum that Libyan columns attacked Chadian forces. In any case, the neutralization of Ouadi Doum by the French Air Force is proof of the determination of the French Government to honor its political and moral commitments towards the Chadian people.

Soviet-Built Plane Bombs Airport

AB170807 Paris AFP in English 0759 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, Feb 17 (AFP) — A lone Soviet-Built Tupolev 22 aircraft escorted by fighters bombed the runway at Ndjamena Airport early today, eyewitnesses and Chadian military sources said. The attack came 24 hours after French strike aircraft destroyed an airstrip in northern Chad which Paris alleged was being used to supply Libyan-backed rebels fighting the Ndjamena government. Tupolev 22's have been supplied to Libya.

First reports said there were no casualties from the attack. But approaches to the airport were sealed off by the authorities.

A Chadian military source said a single bomb was dropped, seriously damaging the runway. The explosion was heard several kilometres from the airport.

The raid was presumed to be a reprisal for Sunday's attack by 12 Fench Jaguar strike aircraft on the airstrip of Ouadi Doum, which was staged at the request of Chadian president Hissein Habre after five days of fierce fighting between his forces and the Libyan-backed Transitonal Government of National Union (GUNT) which holds large areas of northern Chad.

In Paris the French airline has said its flight UT771 from Paris to the Central African Republic of Bangui would not make its usual stopover in Ndjamena.

The French ambassador to Ndjamena, Christian Dutheuil de la Rochere, contacted by telephone from Paris by a French radio station, said that the 200 French troops deployed in the airport area had not fired at the attacking planes.

In Paris the French Defence Ministry said the runway was partially damaged but still usable for a great part of its length. Repair work had already begun, it added. The ministry said the bomber was flying at 5,000 or 6,000 metres (15,000 or 18,000 feet). Ministry sources also identified the bomber as a TU-22, clearly implying that it belonged to the Libyan Air Force, which has seven of the type.

Experts said the bomber had probably flown from a base in the Libyan-occupied Aouzou strip in northern Chad. The TU-22 is a twin-jet swept wing supersonic bomber with a range of several thousand miles, codenamed Blinder by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The GUNT is known to possess only half a dozen Italian-built Siai-Marchetti ground attack aircraft supplied by Libya, which would not have the range to reach Ndjamena from rebel-held areas.

The GUNT's representative in Paris, Abderrahman Moussa, said in a comment on today's attack that the rebels and their allies would reply with an eye for an eye whenever necessary. Mr. Moussa said the GUNT was renewing its warnings to the French Government on the risks of internationalisation of the internal Chadian conflict which direct military intervention brings. Mr. Moussa called on African heads of state, particularly in Central Africa, to prevent the airports of their countries being used by

French military aircraft to bomb Chadian civilians. He repeated that the GUNT was prepared to seek ways and means of resolving the 20-yar Chadian conflict by direct negotiation between the two sides.

16 Feb Communique

AB171213 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Communique issued in Ndjamena by the High Command of the Chadian National Armed Forces, FANT on 16 February, read by Yorongar Moibian, secretary of state at the Presidency in charge of General Inspectorate and State Controls, and deputy commissioner of FANT at the UNIR Central Committee — live or recorded]

[Text] After occupying more than half of the national territory, the Libyan annexationist army launched attacks to conquer the whole of Chad by successfully attacking Kouba Olanga, Oum Chalouba Kalait, Koro Toro, and Zigey. On 10 February 1986 at 1645, a large Libyan army unit, supported by armored cars and heavy artillery, attacked the FANT base in Kouba Olanga. Despite the enemy's superiority in arms, the courageous FANT (?fought courageously) and on 11 February 1986 at 0630 routed the assailants -- who abandoned on the field 250 dead -- and captured 308 POW's, 3 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm double barreled guns, 6 Toyotas equipped with 20 ground to-ground missiles, 8 jeeps equipped with 106-mm canons, 10 Toyota troop carriers, 7 heavy-duty Mercedes 2432's, 3 [words indistinct], and destroyed 6 Mercedes loaded with large [words indisitnct] and 3 (?oriel) jeeps equipped with 106 mm canons.

On the FANT side, 16 were killed on the battlefield, (?20) were wounded, and a jeep equipped with canons destroyed.

In spite of this thrashing, the invading Libyan army again, on 12 February 1986 at 1645, attacked the Koro Toro garrison situated 40 km north of [name indistinct]. The Libyan army was routed at 1800 leaving behind 53 dead and 27 wounded; 3 Toyotas equipped with ground-to-ground missiles, (?7) Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns, 6 Toyota troop carriers, 7 Toyotas (105), and 3 jeeps equipped with 106-mm canons were captured. On the FANT side, 1 was killed on the battlefield and 20 were wounded.

On 13 February at 1630 it was the turn of the Zigey garrison situated 300 km northwest of Koro Toro to be the target of the Libyan army which, after long and severe fighting, was put into disarray by the FANT. There were 92 casualties, 170 POW's; 6 Toyota troop carriers, 2 heavy-duty Mercedes 2432's, 3 mortar carriers, 1 DCA-14, 9 [name indistinct], 24 bazookas, and 312 light weapons were captured. During this battle, the FANT lost 7 people on the battlefield and 7 were wounded.

Also on 11 February at 1343 a large Libyan army unit supported by tanks, long-range rocket launchers and armored cars of all types attacked the garrison of Kalait, and for 4 days the troops of the FANT heroically resisted the invaders. After 4 days of heroic battle, our courageous armed forces gave another thrashing to the invaders who abandoned on the field 660 dead; 466 POW's; captured 12 Toyotas equipped with ground-to-ground missiles, 9 jeeps equipped with 106-mm canons, 14 Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm canons, 8 Mercedes 2432's, 2 (?water tanks), 35 Toyota troop carriers, AML's [name indistinct]; 10 Toyotas equipped with radios, and destroyed 5 AML's and 18 vehicles equipped with heavy weapons.

The final detailed report on this great victory over Al-Qadhdhafi will be given after searching and mopping up operations undertaken by the garrisons which are being attacked by the enemy notably at Kouba Olanga, Koro Toro, Zigey and Oum Chalouba Kalait.

Issued in Ndjamena on 16 February 1986 by the Major (Damtakou Balebam), second in command of the Chadian National Armed Forces

17 Feb Communique

AB172027 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 17 Feb 86

["Communique" issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation issued in Ndjamena on 17 February]

[Text] The escalation of Libyan aggression against Chad materialized today, Monday, 17 February, with the bombing of the Ndjamena airport. A Tupolev-22 aircraft of the Libyan army dropped bombs this morning at 0700 local time on the runway of the airport, causing partial damage to it. Repair work began immediately and the airfield will be usable again in the next few hours.

The arrogant, criminal attack on Ndjamena by the Libyan Army is a demonstration — for those who were not yet aware — that Al-Qadhdhafi's military objectives and political ambitions are not limited to the 16th parallel. It is the entirety of the Chadian territory that the Tripoli regime wants to destroy and annex.

In fact, the invasion campaign on which Libya has embarked now is in all regards the repetition of that of 1980, which began with land attacks claimed to be carried out by Chadian troops. Then the invasion move was gradually strengthened to culminate with open involvement in the Ndjamena battle of Libyan troops, tanks, and aircraft, including Tupolev-22 aircraft with bombs similar to those dropped on Ndjamena airport this morning.

In 1980, some people, whose skepticism made them the accomplices of Libya, refused to believe that Libyan tanks and air force had intervened in Ndjamena against the FANT. When these people realized the blantant facts, the invasion of Chad had already been completed. Today, there is much evidence of Libyan aggression against Chad. It is against Libyan soldiers, armored vehicles, artillery, and air force that the Chadian National Armed Forces are fighting.

Consequently, the Chadian government calls on the international community to assume its responsibilities in the face of this blatant aggression. The gallant people of Chad and their government will assume their own responsibilities.

Communique Calls for World Support

AB172000 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Communique issued at the end of an extraordinary meeting of members of government, the UNIR Central Committee, and the National Consultative Council on 17 February in Ndjamena; read by Secretary of State of Economy and Commerce Amos Reoulengar — live or recorded]

[Text] At a meeting today 17, February 1986, under the chairmanship of his excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, head of state, founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR], the government, the National Consultative Council, and the UNIR Central Committee, thoroughly analyzed recent developments in the situation in our country.

The three bodies noted that Libyan expansionists have once more gone a step further in escalating the violence and barbarism in pursuit of their avowed aim of annexing Chad. Al-Qadhdhafi is progressively continuing his attacks on Chad. Since the occupation of the Aouzou Strip in 1973, an occupation that has spread to more than half of our territory, Al-Qadhdhafi's objective is and remains the same: to remove Chad, a sovereign state, from the world map. This explains the resumption of fighting especially with the attacks on our positions at Kouba Olanga, Koro Toro, Oum Chalouba-Kalait, Zigey, and the air raid on the Ndjamena civilian airport. This blind bombing of the Ndjamena airport could have killed innocent people. Luckily, the damages are not sizeable and the runway will be repaired shortly.

In view of this blatant Libyan attack, the three bodies note with bitterness the indifference, and guilty silence of certain states and international organizations. In view of this situation, the government, the national Consultative Council, and the UNIR Central Committee:

1. Reaffirm their strong determination to do all in their power to safeguard the independence and national sovereignty, and defend the territorial integrity;
2. Congratulate and encourage our valiant Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] for their courageous actions which made it possible to rout the barbarian Libyan hordes;
3. Call on all Chadians to mobilize themselves and remain vigilant in the face of the dangerous developments in the situation, and to continue making the necessary sacrifices to support the actions of their valiant fighting forces.

4. Congratulate and express their gratitude to his excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, the French government and the entire people, for promptly heeding Chad's call, thus proving their determination to respect France's commitments towards Chad and Africa.

5. Thank and congratulate his excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, his government, the Gabonese Democratic Party, and the Gabonese people for their constant efforts aimed at promoting direct dialogue between Chadians in order to achieve total and longlasting national reconciliation.

6. Call on all peace- and justice-loving countries to support Chad in its fight for freedom, and reiterate to the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Organization, and the Islamic Conference Organization their need to assume their responsibility by making positive statements on the conflict between our country and Libya, which these organizations have already been informed about.

7. The government, the National Consultative Council, and the UNIR Central Committee cannot bargain over the sovereignty and freedom of Chad, and are determined to do all in their power to ensure the total liberation of the occupied part of the territory. The mobilized Chadian people will win!

POW'S Presented to Reporters

AB161956 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Some prisoners caught during recent fighting were presented this afternoon to national and international reporters by the minister delegate to the Presidency of the Republic in charge of information, Soumaila Mohamat. It was learned at this news conference, whose theme was the intervention of the Libyan army in the war, that the involvement of Libyan troops in the attacks on government posts is real, and that there is a massive mobilization of Libyans, arms, and men in the occupied zone.

Commerce Minister Addresses UNIR on Fighting

AB142208 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Address to Ndjamena branches of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, UNIR, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 February 1986 by Moussa Seif Adoum, minister of economy and commerce and deputy commissioner for external relations, member of the Executive Bureau of the UNIR Central Committee, following renewed Libyan aggressions against Chad — recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear militant comrades, on behalf of the comrade founding chairman of the UNIR, president of the Republic, I would like to address to you our militant and patriotic greetings and also thank you for having come here in such a great number this morning. This proves — it is necessary — the true revolutionary and patriotic importance that you attach to the current problem, that is to say the country's problem.

Comrades, as you know, since 10 February 1986, we have become the target of Libyan aggression which, at any rate, is neither the first nor the last because this attack falls within the definite motives of Al-Qadhadhafi's thinking. In fact, though all the military attacks we have been suffering for more than a decade now and which we are currently experiencing, differ in their means and approaches, in reality, these aggressions have the same objective. They are aimed simply at the annexation of our country which, above all, according to Libyan thinking, must serve as a bridge for other conquests in Africa and other conquests in the Sahel.

On the diplomatic level, Al-Qadhdhafi, with the collaboration of some complacent press agencies, dispatched a group of his unavowed supporters, as he put it, on a diplomatic tour of France and Africa, to find a so-called political solution to the Chadian crisis. They call this a Chadian crisis, because Tripoli's puppets, the media which are in the pay of Tripoli call Libyan aggression — the Libyan occupation of Chadian territory — a Chadian problem and an inter-Chadian conflict. At the head of this group of traitors or these traitors in the (?pay) of Libya, as everyone knows, is Acheik ibn Oumar, Acheikh who has just been released from prison, who has just left the Libyan zone, and who with truncheon strokes, learned the lessons of his Libyan masters. At the head of this group is Acheikh, who has visited a number of countries — France and some African countries and was followed immediately by another group which is headed by (Faso Salam) or by (Acheikh Manana). Other traitors have been going door to door in Africa attempting to pass on false messages — deceitful messages.

From France these successive groups of traitors, went to Bamako, Cotonou, Ouagadougou and Accra and expected in their message of peace to make Africa and the world believe that a political and diplomatic solution was being worked out in Chad. There is a question which must be answered: Can these traitors convince their listeners at a time when they are going round and playing their game all over the Chadian territory and at this precise moment armed military attacks are being carried out against the troops of the Chadian National Army [FANT] and against the government? Can these traitors convince one that there can be a peaceful solution when their Libyan masters, their suppliers in arms and in men, as well as in financial means are attacking us? These groups of traitors which have been sent by Tripoli to France and Africa have (?projected) in the headlines of the international press through consent witha certain press — a certain complacent press — which in truth was bribed by the Libyan petrodollar saying that Libyans are undertaking a systematic campaign — a so-called peace campaign — a campaign which is in favor of these press agencies [words indistinct]. This press goes further than this. This French press — to be specific — which is at the head of this campaign in favor of Libya's annexationist camapgin goes further than expected. This press would like us to believe that the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] exists. It would like us to believe that [words indistinct] and press agents like Edourd Dore [AFP correspondent] whom everyone heard of as the true lawyer of the press sought through a fabricated story — that is certainly an intelligent story but which does not take realities into consideration — to make us believe that there are no Lbiyans in the north or that even if there are Libyans there, they are advisers; whereas on the field, we have been fighting against Libyan forces. Those killed on the enemy side were Libyans, and the prisoners are Libyans, the weapons are Libyan weapons, the documents are Libyan. Therefore, the press, knowing what it really wants, wanted to divert our attention from reality, by presenting the traitors I have just spoken of as apostles of peace; whereas Libya's fundamental objective is to attack us, to attack us militarily, in the hope that this time it will defeat the Chadian patriots.

Comrades, I would like you to serve as my witness. Since 7 June 1982, the comrade president, El Hadj Hissein Habre, has been making national reconciliation a constant feature of his policy. I can merely say, that since that date, this responsible and enlightened policy has been implemented with incomparable will, with material and concrete means. This policy of national reconciliation has achieved success, success hitherto unknown to Chad, despite numerous obstacles interminably and constantly placed in our way by our enemies.

In the interior of the country, it is a fact that since the signing of the first agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] on 22 April 1984 at [name indistinct] and the last agreement signed between the interim bureau of the [words indistinct] on 20 April 1985, fifteen agreements — fifteen — have been signed by the government of the Third Republic with the brothers of the opposition in the center, in the east, and south of the country. With regard to the opposition outside the country, more and more Chadians are returning to the country. Among them are political exiles, traditional leaders, cadres, ordinary citizens from all horizons, including Libya, and each one of them has brought his contribution for the reconstruction of Chad in an atmosphere of harmony, tolerance, and peace. The government of the Third Republic, the group headed by Comrade Hissein Habre, and the most inestimable of friendly countries, including Gabon, have successively concretized with the four CDR's and the Chadian Democratic Front their determination to unite the sons of Chad. In a nutshell, reconciliation, that is harmony between Chadians, is priceless. That is why we praise the patriotic courage of our brothers in the opposition, who have seized the outstretched arm for national reconstruction, the great [words indistinct] of the Chadian nation.

We reiterate the call for national reconciliation because Chad's salvation depends on it, and we encourage the Chadian brothers in the opposition who, at this very moment, are making an effort and who are seeking the ways and means of joining the government of the Third Republic in its struggle, in its war against Libya, and also against [words indistinct].

It is important that we Chadians, do not play the game of the Libyans. That is why we must constantly keep in mind that each step we make towards national reconciliation disturbs and hinders the hegemonic, expansionist ambitions of Libya, not only in Chad but in the rest of the Sahel. It is therefore very important that we avoid getting caught in Al-Qadhdhafi's mill.

Ndjamena Reports Reconciliation With Kotiga

AB152110 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The government of the Third Republic is determined to consolidate lasting peace in Chad. We have learned from Libreville that a peace agreement has just been signed in the Gabonese capital between Colonel Kotiga, the commander of the Codos and the representative of the Chadian government, Amos Raoulengar, the secretary of state for economy and commerce. The ceremony took place in the presence of President Bongo of Gabon. The agreement is in accordance with the ones signed in November and December 1985 — also in the Gabonese capital — between the CAC-CDR [Action Coordination Committee of the Democratic Revolutionary Council] and the FDT [Chadian Democratic Front] and the government.

I have assumed my responsibility to bring about peace, Col Kotiga stated. The Chadian soldier said he was ready to fight against Libya in the interest of his country. He also spoke about the war situation which that terrorist country imposed on us. For his part, President Bongo congratulated the two sides and invited them to engage in dialogue.

Kotiga Returns to Ndjamena

AB161630 Paris AFP in French 1219 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 16 Feb (AFP) — Colonel Alphonse Guerina Kotiga, leader of the Red Codos (guerrillas from southern Chad) of the Moyen Chari Region, who signed a peace agreement on Friday in Libreville [capital of Gabon] with President Hissein Habre's government, returned to Ndjamena on Sunday morning.

Col Kotiga arrived at the same time as Thiam Tidjani, former spokesman of the Democratic and Revolutionary Council (CDR — main component of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government) and who signed a personal peace agreement on Friday in the Gabonese capital with Prersident Habre's regime.

The agreement signed by Col Kotiga follows the reconciliation agreement signed at the end of 1985 in the Gabonese capital between the Action and Coordination Committee-Democratic and Revolutionary Council and the Chadian Democratic Front (two other Chadian opposition movements), on one hand, the the Ndjamena authorities on the other.

The Chadian government delegation led by the secretary of state for economy and trade, Amos Reoulengar, who signed the agreement with the leader of the Red Codos, also returned to Ndjamena on Sunday accompanied by a Gabonese envoy, Francois Hengouang, deputy personal secretary to President Omar Bongo.

Habre Lauds Kotiga's Role

AB170941 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpts] It is a Chad at war against the Liyban occupation troops which, today, through the president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, welcomed one of its sons, Colonel Alphonse Kotiga, leader of the Codos [guerrilla group in southern Chad] who has just signed an agreement with the government in Libreville. In fact, this is another Chadian who has come to join hands with his brothers for the common front against the invading Libyan troops. Listen to the president of the republic, Hissien Habre, while receiving Mr Kotiga this afternoon.

[Begin Habre recording] Ladies and gentlemen, we thank God for bringing us together once again to celebrate an important event for the entire Chadian people; because each time a step is made toward national reconciliation, it represents a great achievement for the total return of peace to Chad.

The agreement concluded between the Government of Chad and Col Kotiga, representing the Codos under his command, falls within the framework of the major preoccupations of the Chadian Government and more precisely of the Chadian people, for nothing is more important than the return of peace to our country after more than a generation of (?war). The return of brother Kotiga to our fold represents a special situation — I would even say an exceptional situation for Chad, because everybody is aware that since 10 February, Libya has crossed a new stage in its permanent aggression against our country by launching large-scale attacks aginst the Chadian National Armed Forces south of the 16th parallel. I therefore hail brother Kotiga on this exceptional occasion for taking up his responsibility by signing a peace agreement with the government of Chad. By doing this, Col Kotiga has demonstrated exemplary patriotism and nationalism; and for this reason the entire Chadian people congratulate him.

I would also like to tell my brother Kotiga that the exigencies of the defense of the fatherland, the necessity to preserve the territorial integrity, and the duty to preserve national unity demands from us the total respect for the concrete implementation of the agreements that we have just signed. I can affirm that for the Chadian Government's part, you will not be disappointed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Brother Tidjani Thiam [CDR representative to France] into our midst. We want to say that we are very happy to see him with us today, because his presence here also shows his willingness to stay clear from those who still think that the future of Chad depends on Al-Qadhdhafi. We congratulate brother Tidjani Thiam for taking up his responsibility as a patriot and a citizen. If the other brothers who are still in the ranks of the Libyan legion hear us, I say it is time they return to the fatherland; it is time to work for reconciliation and peace. If Goukouni Oueddei hears me, he should take up his responsibility toward the fatherland; there is still time for him to return to his country; he will be received as a hero and receive appropriate honors.

To conclude, I would once again like to express my congratulations to Col Kotiga, to the Chadian Government delegation, and to our Gabonese brothers and friends for their sustained efforts in concluding the third Libreville agreement. [end recording]

Col Kotiga's response was centered on the return of peace to Chad. Between Chadians it is possible to take a stand against the common enemy, which is Libya, which is using Chad for its own interest. I will leave you to listen to Col Kotiga.

[Begin Kotiga recording] I was pleasantly surprised by the reception given us by the president of the Republic. I believe the gesture of peace he made, the embrace given us, shows his determination for genuine peace for our country. If we have returned to him, it is simply because we wanted to take up our responsibility in the face of what is happening here in Chad. Chad is our country [words indistinct]. If today we find ourselves in the opposition, it is simply due to a given situation. As I am talking to you, our commandos, and I myself, are aware of a certain situation: the disappearance of our country if we do not react. I am not a professional opposition man. As I was telling the Gabonese president, I was revolted by a certain serious situation, and since then President Hissein Habre, having repaired that situation and called for a common front to face the common enemy, we deemed it wise to meet at a negotiating table, and this is what we have done at the request of the people we represent and at the request of the government. I am therefore pleasantly surprised that the government [words indistinct] and as I have already said we signed this agreement so that we can participate in the final settlement of the problem facing our country.

We have returned to the capital of our country to participate in the life of the country and the search for peace, which is the most important thing we are looking for; once we achieve this internal peace, we have the possibility to face together our common enemy, the Libyans. [end recording]

Opposition Relieves Kotiga From Post

AB171614 Paris AFP in French 1440 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 17 Feb (AFP) — The MRP (Chadian People's Revolutionary Movement) of Colonel Abdelkader Kamougoue, who is also vice president of the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] (Chadian opposition group), has said in a communique issued in Brazzaville on Monday that "the maneuvers currently going on in Libreville are hindering the efforts being made by Congo, which has been mandated by the OAU to reconcile the Chadian brothers." This communique, which constitutes a reaction by the MRP to the recent rallying of Colonel Alphonse Kotiga to Hissein Habre's regime, also removes Colonel Kotiga at the same time from his position as commander of the "southern front," and recalls the fact that he had been appointed to that post by the Coordination Bureau (Political Bureau) of the MRP in August 1984.

"The rejoining of Kotiga with the forces of evil is not only high treason, but also amply reveals the true nature of the patent agents of imperialism who infiltrate the ranks of warriors to satisfy their personal ambitions," emphasized the MRP communique signed by its vice president, Mr Pascal Yoadim Nadji.

The MRP said that the solution to the Chadian crisis "must be global," and that any isolated and personal initiative is likely to consolidate the "pro-imperialist Ndjamena" administration.

GUNT Announces Capture of Zigey, Biltine

AB141325 Paris AFP in French 1229 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Feb (AFP) — Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] on Friday announced the capture of the localities of Zigey (in the northwest of the country, 300 kilometers north of Ndjamena) and Biltine (south of Oum Chalouba in eastern Chad), following a counterattack mounted by the forces of Ndjamena on Kouba Olanga, situated southwards of the line dividing the belligerent Chadian forces. "Our forces on Thursday captured Zigey, following a counterattack by the forces of Ndjamena on the position of Koubo Olanga and we pursued elements who had come from Mao and Salal, up to Zigey," the GUNT minister of finance and economy, Mr Biasoumil Nadjita, told AFP. "We also took Biltine by repelling the forces who had come from Arada who tried to push us towards Oum Chalouba," he added. He also said "seven officers, including a senior officer, were among the 700 prisoners captured by the GUNT forces," quoting last-minute information received from the interior of northern Chad.

The GUNT had announced on Thursday that its forces were still in the Kalait-Oum Chalouba regions, near the line dividing the two forces, and at Kouba Olanga, south of Koro Toro. It had also said that there were no Libyan troops in the field. Ndjamena had affirmed that the offensive had been launched by the forces of Tripoli which support the GUNT.

GUNT Official Denies Libyan Participation

AB141629 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Paul Quiles, the French minister of defense left Ndjamena this morning for the Central African Republic where French army troops are stationed. This lightning visit by the French minister in the Chadian capital where he held talks with President Hissien Habre is, in the opinion of several observers, proof of the seriousness of the situation in Chad where fitghting continues between government and opposition forces led by Goukouni Oueddei and supported by Libya. Officially, and in view of the seriousness of the situation, the Ndjamena government has requested the intervention of French troops. This request came after Paris' decision to speed up military aid to Hissein Habre. As in the past, it is against the Ndjamena government that the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] started the fighting in northern Chad. Mr Togoy, delegate for external relations of the GUNT Supreme Council who considers the Libreville negotiations as short-lived has denied Libyan involvement in the war. Let us listen to what he has to say:

[Begin recording] [Togoy] Recently, a group of journalists went to the warfront, Gouro, (Bilma Sara), (Scha) Bardai, and so on. They visited the entire warfront and they came back with evidence. Lbiayns cannot do the work of Chadians. This is an important official denial. We did not attack; it was the Chadian National Armed Forces which attakced. We have always sought to solve the problem peacefully. To prove this we have sent out a GUNT delegation led by the minister of state of coordination, Acheikh ibn Oumar, who is here right now. Acheikh [words indistinct]. He is a minister of state for coordination. He is leading a delegation to inform President Omar Bongo of our desire to solve the problem in Chad, a desire we have always shown.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think of all the recent rallying behind the Ndjamena government?
[Togoy] We think it is a very good thing. We think that it can have [word indistinct]. We also think that individuals cannot solve the Chadian problem better because the Chadian problem is not [words indistinct] or a group which makes an agreement. The root of the problem is very complicated. The root of the problem is between the GUNT and Ndjamena.

[Unidentified reporter] We have the impression that the GUNT forces have received a lot of aid.
[Togoy] It is an exaggeration to speak of a lot of aid. We only

have 14 [words indistinct]. Hissein has moere aid than we do. The French have helped him a lot, in comparison with us.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you asserting that Libya is not involved in the war?
[Togoy] Libya has never participated in, and will never participate in our war. Libya has never participated in it.

[Unidentified reporter] But if France intervenes do you not intend to call on your partners?
[Togoy] That is automatic; very automatic. If France intervenes, Libya will intervene automatically. It is our ally. We would not like the internationalization of the Chadian problem. It is an inter-Chadian problem. [end recording]

GUNT Minister Discourages French Participation
AB141644 Paris AFP in French 1552 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Feb (AFP) — The Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] "would not accept" France fighting alongside Ndjamena against other Chadians who have no quarrel with France, the GUNT minister of economy and finance, Beassoumal Nadjita, told AFP on Friday.

"We have always affirmed our readiness to meet with our Chadian brothers to talk with them, and we have sent a delegation led by the minister of coordination, Acheik ibn Oummar, to Paris in this regard to ask the French to bring pressure on Ndjamena for opening discussions", Mr Nadjita underlined. He also pointed out that the same message had been sent by Goukouni Oueddei to a OAU mission which came to the Libyan capital recently. The mission comprised the minister of foreign affairs to Senegal, acting for the current OAU chairman, and that of Congo.

"We have been assaulted by Hissein Habre's forces which came to attack our positions, north Oum Chalouba, and we have counterattacked by advancing farther," he added. If the other side does not accept discussions between Chadians, the GUNT, and not the Libyans, as Ndjamena asserts, will continue its operations, he further specified.

Further Details
AB150848 Paris AFP in English 0736 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 15 (AFP) — The Libyan-based Chadian opposition threatened here Friday night to have recourse to "the principle of reciprocity" if French troops moved into Chad to help the government of President Hissein Habre.

Refusing to make any specific mention of Libya, Beassoumal Nadjita, finance and economy minister in the rebel Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), said that "France will bear the full responsibility in the event of a conflagration" in the northern part of Chad held by the GUNT's Libyan-backed forces, led by former President Goukouni Oueddei.

Mr Nadjita criticized "the present attitude of the French Government" in favor of President Habre as "flagrant intervention in Chad's internal affairs." He said France would do better to work toward negotiations "for an overall political solution."

The rebel minister also said GUNT forces continued to occupy positions at Biltine and Zigey, along the 16th parallel which has separated the opposing forces during the past two years of a 20-year civil war.

In Paris, however, Chadian ambassador Allam-mi Ahmad said government troops had "well and truly countered" what he called a Libyan offensive against government outposts, but that a risk of escalation remained. "The Libyan forces have been routed," the ambassador said. "They are fleeing, but they could regroup, so there exists a risk of escalation which could take the form of intervention by Libyan planes and tanks."

Meanwhile, in Libreville, capital of Gabon, Colonel Alphonse Guerina Kotiga, leader of anti-government guerrillas in southern Chad, signed a reconciliation agreement with the Ndjamena regime and an immediate ceasefire throughout the south. A GUNT spokesman in Tripoli said Col Kotiga's action was a personal "defection" and that his troops remained part of the GUNT forces.

GUNT Envoy Says French Raid Killed Nine
AU171417 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Brussels, Feb 17 (AFP) — A representative of the Chadian rebel Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) today said nine people, two of them pregnant women, were killed yesterday in a raid by French aircraft on a rebel airbase in northern Chad.

The GUNT's Europe representative, Issaka Ramat Alhamdou, said in a communique released here that the bombing of the airfield at Wadi Doum destroyed 15 huts, causing the casualties. He denounced the raid as an "act of barbary unworthy of a civilized nation," adding that "France has openly declared war against us and we must now confront the French aviation with national patriotism."

IVORY COAST

Ivory Coast Reaffirms Total Support for Habre
AB150827 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers met yesterday from 1000 to 1300 at the presidential palace under the chairmanship of the head of state, his excellency President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. After an extensive review of problems shaking the world and particularly in Africa, the head of state expressed concern over the fact that peace which began to return to Chad after many years of efforts is again being disturbed. After this analysis, the government decided to make the following statement:

At a time when efforts made by the government of President Hissein Habre and many friendly countries are opening favorable prospects for national reconciliation for the restoration of peace in Chad, the current offensive of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], strongly supported by the Libyan armed forces, compromises the relative lull prevailing in the region after the agreement signed between France and Libya on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Chad.

Ivory Coast, which has always supported President Hissein Habre's efforts toward national reconciliation and peace in Chad, reaffirms its total support for President Hissein Habre and his government in the new trials imposed on them. It highly appreciates France's decision to immediately give its support to the Government of Chad to counter this offensive and discourage once and for all Libya's ambition to annexe part of Chad.

LIBERIA

Government Receives Note From France on Duvalier

AB141808 Paris AFP in French 1752 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Monrovia, 14 Feb (AFP) — The Government of Liberia received from the French authorities a "diplomatic note" concerning a possible offer of asylum by Monrovia to deposed Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier, Liberia Foreign Minister J. Bernard Blamo indicated Friday [14 Feb].

Liberian President Samuel Doe is presently in possession of this "note," the minister told AFP, saying that he would not like to add anything, because "the matter is being studied."

Doe Announces Economic Measures 17 Feb

AB172058 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The president of Liberia, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has announced several economic measures instituted by the government to ensure an immediate solution to the nation's present economic situation. According to the national radio station quoting an Executive Mansion release, the measures, which take immediate effect, were contained in the president's statement on the budget and adopted today at the cabinet meeting held at the executive mansion.

Under these economic measures, all revenues and expenditures from all sources will be programmed in the budget in order to allow the budget to reflect a true picture of the government's fiscal operation including LPRC [Liberian Petroleum Refining Company]. The Ministry of Finance, under these measures, has been directed not to process any expenditure transaction for which there is no budgetary allocation. Effective immediately a general freeze has been imposed on payments of domestic arrears involving the construction contracts and purchase of equipment. Projects largely funded by external sources are exempted according to these measures.

Other measures adopted by the government include the revoking and cancellation of the duty-free incentives granted to [words indistinct] as well as all duty-free shops. All major investment proposals involving government participation directly or indirectly will be canceled and (?endorsed) by the Economic Financial Management Committee as well as all loans or credits to the Government of Liberia [words indistinct] on a short or long-term will be approved by the same committee.

The release says the operation of the Liberian National Lotteries will hereby be supervised by the Ministry of Finance so that the revenue generated will be budgeted and accounted for.

All arrears owed government by the Liberian National Lotteries must be remitted to the Ministry of Finance before the end of March of this year and an audit of the lotteries must be commissioned by the Ministry of Finance.

At the same time all passport and other fees now collected by the government ministries and agencies are hereby discontinued and the collection functions transferred to the Ministry of Finance.

The release further said under the adopted economic measures, the government will not enter into new contracts or agreements for constructions from now up till June 30 of this year and that construction contracts signed but not yet executed are hereby suspended until the general economic situation of Liberia improves.

Calls 'Urgent' Cabinet Meeting

AB152118 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The president of Liberia, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has directed all cabinet ministers to attend an urgent meeting on Monday, February 17, at 10 o'clock in the morning at the usual venue. According to an Executive Mansion press release, Dr Doe said all cabinet ministers, immediately following the meeting, will proceed with their respective farming activities in keeping with the previous pronouncement.

Senate To Convene 'Urgent' Executive Session

AB152128 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The Liberian Senate will convene an urgent (?brief) executive session at the Capitol Building on Monday [17 February] at 10 o'clock in the morning. A Capitol Building release said the session is expected to feature important issues of national interest. All members of the Senate have been advised to be in full attendance.

Doe Issues Agricultural Directive to Ministers

AB141245 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Cabinent ministers have been given 2 weeks off their normal official duties to commence work on their farms. The directive, which was given by President Samuel Kanyon Doe yesterday, takes effect as of Monday the 17th of February. An Executive Mansion release issued quoted President Doe as reiterating the importance he attaches to the green revolution and said that any minister who fails to make a farm in the 6 months will be dropped from the cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Liberian leader has appealed to all Liberians to identify farm lands for agricultural purposes.

Legislature Suspends Talks on 1-Party System

AB152130 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] The national legislature of Liberia has suspended deliberations on the question of the institution of a 1-party state in the country. The speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Samuel Hill, told a news conference yesterday that the dissolved military government advocated a multiparty system to give the Liberian people a say in the government and not to spark disunity among the citizens.

On the issue of land ownership of foreigners of non-Negro descent, Speaker Hill assured Liberians that they would have an [word indisitnct] before the national legislature concludes the act.

LAP's Jackson Doe Released From Detention 13 Feb

AB141215 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1200 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] The former presidential candidate of the Liberia Action Party [LAP], Mr Jackson F. Doe, has been released from further detention. Mr Doe was released yesterday evening following a ruling by the magisterial court on Wednesday [12 Feb] dismissing treason charges brought against him in connection with the November 12 abortive invasion.

UP Legislators Given Ultimatum by Party

AB152205 Paris AFP in English 1119 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Monrovia, Feb 15 (AFP) — Three members of the opposition Unity Party (UP) who took their parliamentary seats in defiance of a decision by opposition groupings to boycott the new legislature have been asked to give up their seats or resign from the party by March 12. Party sources yesterday said the UP took the "unanimous" decision Wednesday at a National Executive meeting.

UP Senator Ruth Perry and Representatives Abdul Kiawu and John Lansana, who all took their seats in the legislature, are said to have attended the meeting when the decision was taken. The party accused them of contravening its decision to reject all government jobs and to boycott the legislature because of what it called "electorial manupulations" in national voting last October 15.

Three opposition groupings — the Liberia Action Party [LAP], the Liberia Unification Party and the UP — filed a joint complaint to the Elections Commission claiming that the presidential and legislature elections were rigged. Samuel Doe was declared winner of the presidential race and his National Democratic Party won a majority of parliamentary seats.

The three parties said they would boycott the legislature if an electorial commission failed to investigate their complaint. No investigation has so far been conducted.

The independent *SUN TIMES* newspaper Friday [14 Feb] quoted a "trustworthy source" as saying that Senator Perry and Representatives Kiawu and Lansana promised to "adhere to the party's demands" because they had been elected on the party's ticket.

Earlier this month, Tuan Wreh resigned as chairman of the LAP in order to serve in the Senate despite the joint opposition boycott.

Opposition Party Urges Inquiries on Coup, Economy

AB172140 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The standard-bearer of the Unity Party [UP], Dr Edward B. Kessely, has called for the setting up of a commission of inquiry to thoroughly investigate the November 12 attempted coup in all of its apsects. He suggested that the commission should consist of representatives of the Liberian Council of Churches, the Muslim Council of Liberia, the Chamber of Commerce, the Labor Union, the Press Union, the National Bar Association, the Cuttington University College, the University of Liberia, the Liberia Marketing Association, and the National Teachers Union.

Speaking at a press conference today at the party's headquarters in Monrovia, the UP presidential candidate said there was an urgent need for establishing a special commission to look into the operation of the National Bank of Liberia, and the general economic situation of the country. The commission, he said, should be comprised of representatives of the Bankers' Association, the Association of Insurers in Liberia, Auriol Enterprises, Min's Supermarket, Atmak, the Chamber of Commerce, and other similar institutions in the country.

Dr Kessely said informations [as heard], findings, and recommendations should be used as a basis for our banking and monetary policies. He said it will be essential that this commission looked into such matters such as the continued use of the $5 coin, the degree of [word indistinct] the national banking exercise from the Finance Ministry, and should make specific recommendations concerning the staffing and operational functioning of the bank. Additionally, the commission should review existing government fiscal and monetary policies, and make recommendations with a view to improving the economic climate in the country.

NIGERIA

Peace Initiative Issued To Stop Chad Fighting

AB171840 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Nigeria has initiated new moves to find a solution to the conflict in Chad. According to our diplomatic correspondent, Oghie Egboigbe, the Federal Government today sent letters to foreign ministers of the three countries concerned.

[Begin Egboigbe recording] Nigeria has always been in the forefront in the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the civil strife in Chad, her neighbor in the northeast.

Although both France and Libya withdrew their forces from Chad last year following the peace process promulgated by the international community, the French government accused Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of not complying with the agreement, but that Libya denied. And still when last week fighting was started in northern Chad between government forces and Goukoani Oueddei, Nigeria was quick to call for a cease-fire and [words indistinct] of the conflict. But yesterday, when French fighter planes bombed the Ouadi Doum airstrip, said to be held by Libya-backed troops, the dimension of the new war dawned on everyone. So the Ministry of External Affairs was a beehive of activities today, as Professor Bolaji Akinyemi had separate meetings with the ambassadors of the countries concerned. They were Youssouf Mbani of Chad, (Abdelkadr Salekaddin) of Libya, and Michel Drumetz of France.

Prof Akinyemi gave the envoys letters to their different foreign ministers, and told them that the escalation of hostilities in Chad was intolerable and unacceptable to Nigeria. Apparently referring to the French air raid, he said the state of situation where foreign forces resorted to aerial bombardment in a country which is Nigeria's neighbor could not be allowed to continue. The minister stated that Nigeria was again ready to help the peace process in Chad. Although he did not say what form the help would take, he said that Chadians concerned had to be resolute by not permitting their country to become a theater of war.

As part of the Nigerian peace initiative, Prof Akinyemi is leaving for Tripoli and Paris on Wednesday to discuss the matter with Libyan and French leaders. A panel has been set up at the Ministry of External Affairs to monitor developments in Chad round the clock.

Meanwhile, President Ibrahim Babangida has sent a message to the OAU chairman, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, on Nigeria's moves and proposals in the more than 20-year-old conflict in Chad. [end recording]

Cease-fire, Noninterference Urged

AB151630 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Nigeria has called for an immediate cease-fire in the renewed fighting between Chadian troops and forces loyal to former President Goukouni Oueddei. In a statement in Lagos, the Ministry of External Affairs expressed concern about the latest crisis, and appealed to the parties involved to place the overall interest of Chad above every other consideration. It urged them to seek collectively and in good faith a peaceful resolution of their problem. The ministry pledged Nigeria's preparedness to contribute to peace efforts in that country and warned against outside interference in the conflict.

Umaru Dikko To Be Extradited From UK Soon

AB162130 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Nigeria's most wanted fugitive, Alhaji Umaru Dikko, is soon to be extradited from Britain where he took refuge since the overthrow of the civilian administration over 2 years ago. Also to be extradited are former Senate President Dr Joseph Wayas, ex-attorney General Mr Richard Akinjide, and the former chairman of the defunt National Party of Nigeria, Chief Adisa Akinloye.

The attorney general of the federation and minister of justice, Mr Bola Adjibola, made this known while speaking to newsmen after an interdenominational religious service held in Lagos today as part of activities to mark 100 years of the legal profession in Nigeria.

The minister remarked that the Federal Government was anxious to bring the men home to answer to allegations against them. He explained that Britain, which had earlier defied Nigeria's extradition request, was now cooperating.

ANGOLA

Savimbi Returns, Says U.S. Trip 'Successful'

MB140903 (Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Free Land of Angola — UNITA President Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi and his delegation were given a thunderous heroes welcome back home by tens of thousands of anxious members, militants and armed forces who waited their arrival in pouring rain at Jamba, Thursday morning.

In a brief speech which was interrupted several times by slogan chanting crowds, Dr Savimbi described the American trip as very successful. He added that the Americans agreed to support the legitimate Angolan patriots' determined fighting against Soviet oppression and expansionsm.

The UNITA leader told the cheering crowds that liberty was around the corner but reminded them to continue to work hard as a team and to maintain unity among all population groups in the country as has been demonstrated earlier along in the war.

Prepared To Free 10 Cubans

MB171431 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The leader of the UNITA movement in Angola, Dr Jonas Savimbi, says he is prepared to release 10 Cuban prisoners to facilitate the release of the South African Defense Force officer, Captain Wynand du Toit. Capt du Toit is being held by the Angolan authorities.

Dr Savimbi told newsmen at Jamba that although he was aware of the negotiations among South Africa, the International Red Cross, and Angola, he had not been approached directly about a possible exchange of Capt du Toit for the 10 Cubans.

Dr Savimbi was referring to the exchange by UNITA of two Soviet pilots for American prisoners in Angola 2 years ago. He said he would release the 10 Cubans on humanitarian grounds. Referring to proposed U.S. aid to UNITA, Dr Savimbi said the Soviet Union was sending new weaponry to Angola while Soviet and Cuban advisers and pilots were being deployed as far south as Menongue.

Dr Savimbi said recent high-level talks among Soviet, Cuban, and Angolan Government officials in Moscow indicated that more Cuban troops would be sent to Angola. There are already about 45,000 Cubans in the country. Dr Savimbi said he had information indicating that the next major military offensive against UNITA would begin at the end of April. He expressed the hope that U.S. arms would be available to UNITA forces before that date.

Further Remarks on Cubans, Aid

MB171752 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The UNITA movement in Angola is fully prepared to release Cuban and MPLA prisoners in exchange for the freedom of South African Captain Wynand du Toit who is being held by the Angolan Government. At present, UNITA is holding 10 Cubans. Capt du Toit's release was one of the matters raised by the state president recently when he referred to the possible release of Mr Nelson Mandela on humanitarian grounds. The UNITA stand was set up by the Dr Jonas Savimbi at a news conference in Jamba yesterday.

[Begin video] [Correspondent Cliff Saunders] Certainly the most topical aspect of the news conference was Dr Savimbi's attitude towards the proposed prisoner exchange. He declared that UNITA had 10 Cubans captive and declared that their release was a strong possibility if linked to that of Capt du Toit. However, Dr Savimbi berated the MPLA for refusing to do a straight exchange between Capt du Toit and Nelson Mandela, saying he does not understand this attitude as the MPLA claimed to side with black people. The UNITA leader gave a straightforward reply when asked if he would favorably consider a request that he exchange Cuban and MPLA prisoners for the release of Capt du Toit.

[Savimbi] Definitely. When we take into consideration the humanitarian grounds as we have released the Russians at one stage where UNITA did not gain anything but we did it only because of that humanitarian feeling.

[Saunders] On the issue of U.S. aid to UNITA, Dr Savimbi said there was no doubt about it, aid was coming to UNITA from the United States. However, he could not say how much aid or what form it would take.

[Savimbi] We said because there were so many resolutions introduced to the Congress for aid to UNITA. Some were talking about humanitarian aid. The others were talking about materiel aid in general. Then we do not refuse any type of aid, but we said that what we needed is antitank missiles and antiaircraft missiles. Then we came back with confidence that they have understood our needs and our request, and we hope they will take into account our own needs.

[Saunders] Other points made by Dr Savimbi were that there were strong signs that Fidel Castro was moving more Cubans into Angola to swell the number of 45,000 already in the country. Also he disclosed that the FAPLA forces, Cubans, and Soviets were preparing for another major offensive probably beginning in May at the end of the rainy season. Enemy troop movements were now in progress, the Soviets were pumping in weaponry, and new Soviet and Cuban advisers and pilots were streaming into Angola. [end video]

19 'Counterrevolutionaries' Killed in Operations

MB130753 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 13 Feb 86

[Text] A total of 19 counterrevolutionaries in the pay of the racist Pretoria regime were killed in recent military operations carried out by the national defense and security forces. ANGOP has been informed by an official military source that the territorial forces stationed in the Chongoroi municipality area of the 7th military region also captured an assortment of war materiel of South African orgin.

11 Cubans, 101 FAPLA Soldiers Killed 8-10 Feb

MB150710 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Free Land of Angola, 15 Feb (KUP) — Eleven Cubans and 101 FAPLA soldiers were killed and 3 FAPLA soliders were captured during operations in the northern provinces of Uige, Zaire, and Lunda and also in the northeastern province of Lunda from 8-10 February. UNITA forces also shot down an airplane and captured 94 rifles.

Reliable sources close to the UNITA's General Chief of Staff revealed that these military operations were part of the UNITA armed forces program of solidarity with General Savimbi's presidential visit. A 23-gun salute greeted General Savimbi on his return to Jamba, UNITA's temporary capital.

UNITA 'Murders' Citizens in Kamabatela, Cambambe

MB141118 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] The UNITA bandits have continued to prove to be increasingly powerless when directly confronting the national defense and security forces, and seek to justify their weakness by spreading horror through the murder of defenseless civilians and the destruction of economic proeprty used in the reconstruction of the country. This was evident when on 8 February they attacked the twon of Kamabatela, headquaters of the municipality of Ambaca, in which the criminals assassinated 67 people, including women, men and children. The national armed forces intervened in the defense of the residents, but the enemy fled.

Two days later the UNITA bandits murdered more defenseless people in the (Kuirugo) area of Cambambe municipality when they attacked a bus of the Cuanza Norte regional enterprise. A total of 12 people were killed and 18 others injured. The murderous fury of the criminals in the service of Pretoria, as displayed in Kamabatela, has added more names to the victims of Balombo, in Benguela Province, and Chicomba and Cassinga in Huila Province.

NAMIBIA

37 SWAPO 'Insurgents' Killed in 14 Feb Skirmish

MB141602 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1601 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 14, SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia shot and killed 37 SWAPO insurgents in a skirmish today, the SWA Territory Force [SWATF] said in Windhoek.

Six more insurgents were shot and killed in various skirmishes in the past two days, the SWATF said in a statement. The security forces suffered no casualities.

The SWATF said those shot dead were of a group of insurgents who wanted to infiltrate SWA/Namibia through the eastern section of the Ovambo-speaking region in the territory. "From the incidents, it is clear that SWAPO has now launched its belated infiltration efforts for this year," the SWATF said.

The security forces were ready and prepared "to protect the inhabitants of the country," the statement added.

The latest fatalities brought to 85 the number of SWAPO insurgents killed to date this year. Security forces killed a total of 559 insurgents last year.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC Confident Mandela Release 'Imminent'

MB180620 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] The ANC is confident that Nelson Mandela's release from prison is imminent. The organization says he could be released as early as this week. Zahed Kachalia takes a look at the issue.

[Kachalia] Senior ANC officials in Lusaka say Mr Mandela could be released in time for Thursday's meeting in London on South Africa's debt repayment. They say this will be seen as an act of good faith on the part of Pretoria, and will probably result in a more beneficial climate for Thursday's talks. The ANC officials say if Mr Mandela is not released this week, he would be out of jail within a matter of weeks.

Family Expects No Release Soon

MB141545 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1543 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Krugersdorp, Feb 14, SAPA — Mr Nelson Mandela did not see himself fitting into any spy swap arrangement and his family did not expect him to be released in the next few days, according to organisers of the Winnie Mandela Support Committee.

This emerged after a press conference to launch a national campign against the "harrassment" of Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the jailed ANC leader mr Nelson Mandela, was held in Kagiso near Krugersdorp today.

After the conference, organisers said members of the Mandela family did not expect Mr Mandela to be freed soon and that his release could take months. Mrs Mandela and other members of the family had also not taken part in any discussions with government officials about his possible release and had not been notified of any decision to free him.

Mandela Reportedly Needs Surgery

MB160831 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0817 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 16, SAPA — Nelson Mandela needs surgery to remove gallstones from his gall bladder — and is unlikely to be released from hospital for quite some time, Johannesburg's *CITY PRESS* newspaper reported today.

CITY PRESS quoted a "reliable source" as saying the jailed ANC leader had seen a Cape Town surgeon on Thursday.

"It was this visit which led to the speculation that his release was imminent", the source said, referring to the flood of journalists who camped outside Cape Town's Medipark Centre after hearing Mandela was inside. He said Mandela was due to have his operation yesterday.

The source said Mandela has apparently met the minister of justice, Mr Kobie Coetzee, to discuss being freed. Negotiations broke down at a crucial stage when Mandela refused to go into exile, he said.

The source, who has direct access to prisoners in Pollsmoor Prison, did not know when Mandela's operation would take place. The prison service has denied that Mandela needs surgery, but the source was adamant that it would be done — and very soon.

This will be Mandela's second operation in five months — late last year he had his prostate gland removed at a Cape Town hospital. He stayed in hospital for two weeks, which led to speculation that he would be released.

Release Mandela Group Holds News Conference

MB141443 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1442 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Kagiso, Feb 14, SAPA — The Release Mandela Committee [RMC] today launched a national campaign against the "harrasment" of Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

A hurriedly arranged press conference at the Roman Catholic Church centre in Kagiso near Krugersdorp — after a magistrates order had banned it from taking place at its original venue in Alexandra township — was attended by leading figures in the United Democratic Front [UDF] and more than 50 local and international journalists.

Father Smangaliso Mkatshwa, the secretary-general of the Southern African Bishops Conference and Patron of the UDF, opened the meeting saying the "historic event" marked the launch of a national campaign against "the sustained presecution of Winnie Mandela." He said, however, that the campaign would also focus on all other political prisoners, treason trialists, detainees, "those on the run" and "all victims of apartheid."

Mrs Mandela, who had been expected to address the meeting, caused some concern when she failed to arrive. Mr Mokeona said she had either been "intercepted" or felt too "modest" to attend the launch of the campaign. However, speculation about her movement, which reporters anxiously monitor as a clue to the timing of her husband's expected release, ended when a white BMW with Mrs Mandela inside pulled up outside the classroom minutes after the meeting ended.

Mrs Mandela was mobbed by television crews, reporters and schoolchildren who streamed out of nearby classrooms and began dancing and singing freedom songs. Conference organisers dished out posters saying "stop harrassing our mother Comrade Winnie Nomzando Mandela" to the enthusiastic crowd.

After having a private discussion with UDF patron Dr Allan Boesak, Mrs Mandela spoke to reporters — but she may not be quoted in South Africa as she is banned. She left about an hour afterwards. There was no police presence at the conference.

During the meeting, Father Mkatshwa said the campaign had been launched because Mrs Mandela was "the most potent symbol to highlight the state's repression of its opponents" and out of a conern for her personal safety.

Dr Boesak added that the meeting should be seen against the background of a continued state of emergency, the ongoing detention of anti-apartheid opponents and the current hunger strike by detainees at Diepkloof Prison. He said the campaign reflected "a concern that touched all these other issues."

The conference, orgnised by the RMC, was attended by Dr Boesak, Dr Beyers Naude, Mrs Helen Joseph, Father Mktshwa, who are all patrons of the UDF, and representatives of COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions], the Black Students Society, the Detainees Parents Support Committee, JODAC [Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee], the Port Elizabeth Consumer Boycott Committee, the Soweto Civic Association, the Natal Indian Congress and other organisations.

Pik Botha Returns Home, Holds Press Conference

MB161112 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1103 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 16, SAPA — The representatives of European governments who met the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, for talks on South Africa's political situation last week had "openly recognised and acknowledged" that there were positive elements of reform in the state president's opening speech to Parliament last month, Mr Botha said on his return of Johannesburg today.

Speaking at a press conference at Jan Smuts Airport shortly after his arrival, Mr Botha also said that although there was still a diplomatic impasse with the Netherland's Government over Dutch fugitive Mr Klaas de Jonge, who has been hiding out in the former Dutch Embassy in Pretoria since July last year, there "may be further developments shortly."

Mr Botha met the American under-secretary of state for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker, representatives of the 12-nation European Economic Community and the International Red Cross during his week-long visit.

Asked if he had discussed the release of the South African Commando Captain Wynand du Toit, who has been in an Angolan prison since May last year, Mr Botha said reporters should understand he could not disclose the substance of confidential talks with the Red Cross. The South African Government was, however, "continuously considering actions and steps to get Du Toit released.

Asked about the possible release of imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and his discussions with people he met on this matter, Mr Botha said he could once again not disclose confidential talks.

"Otherwise it would be impossible to make progress."

The foreign minister said his reception in Europe had been "very friendly," and that government representatives had been very interested in Mr P.W. Botha's speech to Parliament, in which he had outlined reform moves.

"They recognised and acknowledged, stating so openly, that there were indeed positive elements in the speech and that it was very important. They indicated they however wished to wait and see how the reform moves were implemented."

There were, however, elements who were trying to play down reform moves in South Africa and to dismiss the changes as cosmetic.

Mr Botha appealed to foreign media representatives in South Africa to report on the positive aspect of the situation and not only to concentrate on the negative. "It is the plain truth that the state president announced reform measures of a far-reaching dramatic and historic nature... I can't understand why elements try to play this down," he said.

He said he had also informed the European governments of the large influx of foreign citizens to South Africa from neighbouring states, saying it was estimated there were at present some two million foreign black workers in the country. These were displacing South African workers and aggravating the unemployment situation in the area.

If the Western governments wanted to contribute towards stability in southern Africa, they should get together to assist in job creation projects, he had told them.

Also referring to the media's tendincy to concentrate on negative aspects of South Africa, Mr Botha asked: "If South Africa is such a racist country and such a racial cauldron, why are these two million people here?"

Asked to clarify the situation surrounding the possible release of Nelson Mandela, the foreign minister said he had not, as reported from Europe last week, stated that the release of Soviet dissident Dr Andrey Sakharov was a precondition for the ANC leader's release.

He could not take the statement by Mr P.W. Botha to Parliament last month on the basis for negotiations for a possible release of Mandela any further.

Mr Botha confirmed that he hoped to make more trips overseas soon to inform the governments of the political situation in South Africa and intended reform measures.

Found Europe Willing To Listen

MB160541 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says during his visit to Europe he found a willingness to listen to the South African Government's point of view and a desire to be informed about developments in South Africa.

Mr Botha told our special representative in Geneva that he had been impressed by the attitude of Swiss and Common Market representatives. He had nonetheless encountered a lingering suspicion that the South African Government would not implement the changes it had envisaged. Mr Botha said he explained to those that he had met that South Africa could not gain anything from intentionally biding time. He had also made it clear that European governments should accept the fact that there were those who did not want peaceful change in South Africa.

STAR: Talks With Botha Caused Slabbert To Quit

MB150917 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 15 Feb 86 pp 1,2

[By Peter Sullivan]

[Text] Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, the former PFP Party leader, decided to quit parliamentary politics after talking to President Botha on November 25. He wanted the whole PFP to walk out of Parliament and his MPs to resign, stand in by-elections and then refuse to take their seats. However, when support for this was lacking, he told key caucus members five weeks ago that he would leave Parliament.

Interviewed in Cape Town yesterday, he said he would now regroup, consolidate his options and search for common ground among people opposed to apartheid.

"I took the decision that I would not go through with this session when I walked out of P.W. Botha's office in the Union Buildings on November 25.

"I said to him — it was not acrimonious, it was an overwhelming sense of hopelessness that overcame me — 'Mr President, I've been to these people, Hawke (Austrian PM) and Lange (New Zealand PM) and we can achieve something if we do something dramatic.'

"He said to me: 'What do you mean something dramatic? The first people who stab me in the back when I do something dramatic are those people.'

"I said to him: 'Can I at least talk to your advisers?' And he said: 'Yes, go talk to them, go talk to Chris Heunis (Minister of Constitutional Development and planning) and Niel Barnard (National Inteligence Service chief). But why should I listen to your advice? I have 80 percent of the whites behind me and you and Andries (Treurnicht) are fighting for the other 20 percent. And what's more, I have more than 50 percent of the blacks supporting me.'

"I sat there looking at the guy. Quiet, stunned. He said to me: 'Are you laughing at me?' I said: 'No, I think it incredible that there can be such divergent interpretations of data.'

"He said: 'That is because you don't want to help me. You just want to be a radical. I'll tell you right now, I'll listen to your advice on two conditions, you might as well get that straight right now.

" 'I will not give up self-determination for the whites and I am not going to tear up the constitution like you and the ANC want me to do.'

"I said to him: 'What do you mean I want to tear up the constitution?'

"He said: 'The independent homelands will stay. National states will stay.'

"I asked about the urban blacks. He said: 'No, we'll sort them out with decentralisation.'

"And the tricameral system? 'It's a good start, what's wrong with that?'

"And what do you mean by self-determination for whites?

"He said: 'Own schools, own residential areas, and own way of life.'

"Then he introduced a new one — and whites must have the right to maintain control of the money they built up with such difficulty over the years'.

"I said to him 'it seems to me there's going to be a problem'. He said: 'Well, you must accept it. Nothing will change on those two things.'

"When he said it that way, I thought 'I am wasting my time, I am wasting my time'."

Dr Slabbert said he listened to President Botha's opening speech to Parliament with this in mind and realised nothing had changed.

"I interpreted it exactly the same way as Mr F.W. de Klerk."

Asked why he had not suggested the walk-out to his full caucus, Dr Slabbert said:

"Well, I'll be quite open with you, one of them would have been in P.W.'s office before the caucus meeting was over.

"The caucus would have leaked — there would have been a lot of fighting and shouting and screaming at one another.

"I tested it with key guys. If they had accepted that strategy, then we could have started a selling process, calling the guys into the caucus room one by one. And if 20 of us resigned, that would be all right, then you would have had something to go on.

"But you must realise that for every guy who resigns, the guy who stays behind has to attack him.

"I never asked the caucus to come with me out of Parliament. I did test the strategy.

"I thought the strategy would grab the imagination," he said.

"If we had all resigned to stand again and then said we wanted a mandate from the voters to say 'Don't go back until that guy who is President gets rid of the Population Registration Act', then what could the Nationalists have done about it?"

Botha Reacts to Slabbert Comments

MB160757 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0744 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 16, SAPA — The office of the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, has reacted to comments by former PFP leader Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, published yesterday in an article by the Saturday *STAR* newspaper.

In the article, Dr Slabbert cited an interview with Mr Botha in November last year as the reason he decided to resign as the leader of the Progressive Federal Party and official opposition in Parliament. Dr Slabbert said that Mr Botha had, among other things, told him that the independent homelands and the national states would continue to exist and the urban blacks would be "sorted out" by decentralisation. Self-determination for whites would remain and this included their own schools, residential areas and lifestyles.

A statement from the state president's office said Dr Slabbert had through these revelations shown his irresponsibility with personal conversations, the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper, *RAPPORT*, reported today.

It was "strange" that a man who claimed to carry the responsibility of a leader of the opposition could give a one-sided account of an interview three months later, without giving the man with whom he had the interview a chance to give his side of the story, the statement said.

It was "astonishing" that Dr Slabbert, following the happenings of the past week, suddenly named the interview as the main reason for his resignation, after giving other reasons in the week following his resignation, the statement said.

"In any case, Dr Slabbert has withdrawn from parliamentary proceedings and it is unnecessary for Mr Botha to comment in future on his extra-parliamentary remarks and actions," the statement said.

Eglin Elected Acting PFP, Opposition Leader

MB151208 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1149 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 15, SAPA — Mr Colin Eglin was elected acting leader of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] and the official opposition in the House of Assembly at a meeting of the party's Federal Council in Johannesburg today.

Mr Peter Gastrow, the MP for Durban Central who was, according to sources within the party, a potential candidate for the acting leadership, was elected acting national chairman of the party.

Mr Ken Andrews, MP for Gardens, was elected chairman of the Federal Council today when the 62-man body met at a Johannesburg hotel.

All three positions within the PFP will be reconsidered when the party's federal congress is held later this year to elect a permanent leader.

Mr Eglin, 60, was elected acting leader of the PFP by the parliamentary caucus just over a week ago when Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, who ousted Mr Eglin from the leadership post in 1979, announced his resignation at the end of the no-confidence debate in Parliament.

As chairman of the Federal Council, Mr Andrews replaces Dr Alex Boraine, the MP for Pinelands, who announced his resignation from Parliament on Thursday.

In terms of the party's constitution, both Mr Eglin and Mr Gastrow's posts are temporary, and Mr Andrew's permanent, but all will be up for re-election at the Federal Congress, which might even be held as soon as the end of March or the beginning of April.

Speculation that Mr Gastrow would be nominated for the acting leadership post, against Mr Eglin, who is seen by observers as a "stabilising and unifying" force within the PFP, was rife among members of the Federal Council before they met behind closed doors.

Mr Gastrow is still seen as a possible opponent to Mr Eglin for the party leadership elections at the Federal Congress. Mr Eglin, who turns 61 in April this year, is a veteran politician who started out as a town councillor in Pinelands in 1950. In 1954, he was elected the United Party's [UP] member of the provincial council for Pinelands, and he became MP for the same constituency four years later.

When the UP split in 1959, he and another 12 MPs formed the Progressive Party. All of them except Mrs Helen Suzman, MP for Houghton, lost their seats in the 1961 general election, and Mr Eglin was out of Parliament for 13 years, but still active in politics, becoming leader of the Progressive Party in 1971.

He won the Sea Point seat in 1974, after two unsuccessful attempts, and became leader of the Progressive Reform Party a year later, following the merger between the Progressive Party and the Reform Party.

The PRP changed its name to the Progressive Federal Party in 1975, but he was ousted from the leadership by Dr Slabbert in 1979, following a political scandal about Mr Eglin's contacts with an American diplomat, Mr Don McHenry. From 1979, Mr Eglin served as national chairman of the PFP.

Holds Press Conference

MB160527 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1414 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 15, SAPA — Mr Colin Eglin, who had his acting leadership of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] and the official white opposition in Parliament "unanimously" confirmed today, said shortly afterwards he found the party's consolidation and regrouping after a "traumatic" week "quite remarkable."

Speaking at a press conference in Johannesburg after his acting leadership — decided by the parliamentary caucus — was ratified by the PFP's Federal Council, he emphasised the party was still committed to its opposition role in Parliament, and that it now "means business."

The PFP has been rocked over the last 10 days by the sudden resignation from Parliament of the leader, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, on the grounds he was disillusioned and frustrated with the tri-cameral constitution, and the resignation, on similar grounds by Dr Alex Boraine, MP for Pinelands and chairman of the Federal Council.

Mr Peter Gastrow, the 37-year-old MP for Durban central who was considered a possible candidate to oppose Mr Eglin for the leadership, was elected acting national chairman of the PFP.

Mr Ken Andrew, another of the "young" PFP MPs who came into Parliament in 1981, was elected chairman of the Federal Council, and Mr Douglas Gibson, Transvaal chairman of the party, was elected his deputy.

Mr Eglin's and all the senior party positions will come up for re-election at the PFP Federal Congress, to be held in August, but members of the party said today they expected the status quo to be maintained.

A new, top executive post of secretary-general of the PFP, was created at today's meeting and Mr Robin Carlisle was appointed.

"Clearly the PFP has got off the carpet again and is regrouping and consolidating itself after the trauma of the last week," Mr Eglin said at the press conference.

"The degree of unanimity around the election of the leader and the other personnel, and the large areas of common interest on strategies and policy ... I just find quite remarkable considering the situation we've been through in the last short while."

Although there were some "slightly balding heads at the head table, I'm delighted that we've got a team of almost brand new younger people in all the top echelons of the party," Mr Eglin said. "Team effort is going to be the keynote of the PFP."

The attitude of those at today's meeting had quite clearly been "let's get together and take the fight to the national party."

"There is no doubt that, while we have had internal problems, the Nationalist Party and unfortunately with it, the country, is in deep, deep trouble," he said.

Fighting the NP was not enough; what still had to be continued was the long road of trying to get negotiation politics to work in South Africa. This involved a major effort, using Parliament and its platform in extending the influence and contact of the PFP to "the rest of the South African political arena," Mr Eglin said.

The PFP was an orthodox political party, using Parliament as a base but reaching out to the "totality of politics in South Africa."

It was along these lines that the party had been consolidated, dedicated party with, I hope, a new image, a new team spirit and certainly as far as the executive is concerned, an infusion of new blood.

Mr Eglin said he believed it was possible to turn the trauma of the past week into "something extremely positive and a new surge for a better deal in South Africa."

Asked specifically about the PFP's extra-parliamentary role, Mr Eglin said this was still being discussed and that it had not been gone into "in any great detail."

"But politics in South Africa is being played in a very broad, multi-racial arena, and Parliament remains an extremely important part of this... it is where laws are made or changed, where the government can publically be called to account... where there can be a direct confrontation on policy issues between the government and the opposition. In that sense, Parliament is extraordinarily important," he said.

Parliament also provided a platform from which to talk to the nation as a whole, and the PFP intended using this.

"A political party in South Africa has to be relevant in parliament as well as the total arena of politics."

It was within this context that the PFP would work out its strategies... "it's not an either or, its a combination," Mr Eglin said.

Asked if he saw the PFP expanding its extra-parliamentary role, Mr Eglin said the party would be "compelled to do so as more and more politics are played in more and more sites around South Africa."

In the 1960s politics had been mainly a white affair but now it was now being played right across the board "by at least 70 percent of the people who don't have access to Parliament." "It's quite clear that while we are in Parliament, we have to be relevant to the totality of South Africa," he said.

Asked about his personal feelings on talks with the exiled African National Congress, Mr Eglin said that if he could persuade anybody to stop violence and to start negotiations, he would do so.

"To my mind there is no point in talking to other people merely for the sake of talking." The purpose of talking was to try and get people to realise that South Africa would be destroyed if a violence route was maintained. This applied to both the violence of the present system and the violence of resistance.

Commenting on the "apparent sharp divisions still within" the PFP's parliamentarians and whether his strategy would be to "paper over" the differences, Mr Eglin said people had a right to perceive the PFP as being split.

"But my perception of the National Party is of a much, much more divisive party than the PFP... even at cabinet level, between De Klerk (minister of national education) and Pik Botha (minister of foreign affairs),... and I then throw in the [illegible] people who are thinking of walking out.

"I don't believe there is any principal difference between the members of the PFP caucus," although it was obvious members were entitled to differences on tactics and short term strategy.

"I will not try to paper over cracks, I am not in the leadership a second time round to try to be a conciliator between different points of view."

Replying to another question, Mr Eglin said he was "not in the least worried" about speculation that his second terms of leadership of the party might be prejudiced as a result of his first term.

Although it did not count for everything, experience was also valuable, he said.

"In the circumstances of South Africa today, political perception, and an understanding of the political process,... in total... is, I think, a criticially important part of political leadership."

Asked if he saw himself in a "caretaker" or "long-term" capacity as leader of the PFP, Mr Eglin said he did not think it was a question of either of the two.

"I'm in the saddle, I've been backed by the party and I've got no intention of getting out of that. My view is that this is my job and I'm going to do it properly."

Events Surrounding Unrest in Alexandra Reported

Seven Reportedly Die 15 Feb

MB160835 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0824 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 16, SAPA — As many as seven people may be dead after bloody fighting raged through the streets of Alexandra, near Johannesburg, between armed police and hundreds of youths yesterday and late into last night.

A policeman, caught by the youths, was set alight and badly burned.

Gunfire was still heard in the teargas-shrouded northern Johannesburg township late last night, Johannesburg's *CITY PRESS* newspaper reported today. The newspaper said seven residents were shot dead by police and as many as 200 were wounded. Among the dead were a 13-year-old youth and a woman.

At least one police hippo was damaged after being hit by petrol-bombs, and residents said a second police vehicle narrowly escaped destruction when, trapped in a roadside trench, it was attacked by scores of youths. Police repelled them with intense gunfire, they said.

Earlier, defiant youths, their faces masked by handkerchiefs, battled armed police who moved into the township in force after the funeral of Michael Dirading, 19, allegedly killed two weeks ago by a local shopping complex security guard.

Residents said the youths took to the streets armed with petrolbombs and dustbin lids, after police had used teargas to break up the handwashing ceremony at the Dirading home. Mourners were also trapped in the marquee tent in the Dirading yard.

Residents reported wide-scale burning of vehicles and one told of an attempt to destroy the home of Mayor Sam Buti.

Doctors at a local clinic said two people, including the 13-year-old boy, arrived dead at the clinic. Many were treated for gunshot wounds.

10 Said Dead by 16 Feb

MB170550 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] As many as 10 people are feared to have been killed in the bloody weekend confrontation between police and residents in Alexandra township north of Johannesburg.

Police says the official death toll in the worst day of antiapartheid violence this year stands at 8, but the *BUSINESS DAY* newspaper says the figures could have hit 10 by last night.

According to residents, the clash started after police fired teargas to break up mourners after the funeral on Saturday of two members of the Azanian People's Organisation. A police officer caught by mourners narrowly escaped death, after being set alight and badly burned. Police say another four officers were injured in the battle.

In Saturday's violence, houses and businesses were set alight and looted, and last night shops and a bus were petrol-bombed.

Reporters Asked Not To Enter

MB170445 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0944 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 17, SAPA — Because of the current violence journalists have been asked not to enter Alexandra township, Colonel Fred Bull, Johannesburg's police liaison officer told SAPA this morning.

This weekend two people were shot dead when police dispersed a mob petrol-bombing a factory and 28 arrested after a funeral, according to the SAP's unrest report this morning.

The report also said a woman was seriously injured when a burning tyre was placed around her and a man injured when a municipal officer shot at a mob petrol-bombing his vehicle.

The SAP's Public Relations Department will occupy an office at Bramley Police Station and the media may obtain further background information from the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

Situation 'Under Control' 17 Feb

MB171040 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1039 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 17, SAPA — The situation in Alexandra township near Johannesburg is under control, although there have been sporadic outbursts of stone throwing, a police spokesman said at noon today. He said there were "no serious problems" today in the township.

The police spokesman requested the public not to enter the township. A similar request was made to journalists earlier today.

'At Least' Five More Killed

MB171345 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1317 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Johannebsurg, Feb 17, SAPA — Violence flared up again in the Alexandra township, near Sandton, today and at least five more people are believed to have died.

According to residents, one of the dead is believed to be a three-year-old child.

At least three other people died and a policeman was seriously hurt at the weekend after clashes between police and residents after two township funerals.

Earlier today police confirmed the three weekend deaths. Asked to comment on today's violence, a police spokesman said one policeman was shot dead and there were incidents of stonethrowing and petrol-bombing.

By mid-afternoon, all entrances to the township were sealed off with roadblocks manned by security forces.

At 1pm smoke could be seen billowing from the riot-torn township. A house belonging to a policeman was set alight.

At one spot in the township, 10 rounds of rifle fire could be heard. The Sandton Town Council established two temporary emergency clinics outside Alexandra and the local Alexandra clinic was said to be inundated with injured youths from the township.

A reporter saw two bodies and residents reported several other deaths.

Earlier today, Alexandra resembled a battleground after streets were barricaded by youths and all forms of transport prevented from entering the township.

Several houses, one belonging to a member of the Alexandra town council, were fire-bombed this morning. Security forces were patrolling the streets.

Streets were impassable after the weekend rioting which claimed at least three lives. Youths used old cars, rocks and burnt-out tyres to barricade the roads.

Schools were deserted and all businesses, including those belonging to Indians at the entrance to the township, were closed. Residents said youths prevented them from going to work today.

Because of the violence, police asked journalists not to enter Alexandra.

A police report said that a woman was seriously injured when a burning tyre was placed around her and a man was injured when a municipal officer shot at a mob which was petrol-bombing his vehicle.

The Progressive Federal Party spokesman on law and order, Mrs Helen Suzman, visited the township today with PFP Sandton town councillor Mr Rick Valente. She said an "ugly situation" might be brewing in Alexandra.

"We visited the police station to try to ensure that protection would be provided for the people and to ask the police to use minimal violence." She also appealed to the SADF to stay out of the area. "The place is like a tinder box."

18 Feb Unrest Reported

MB180815 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0813 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — A factory bordering unrest-hit Alexandra township was petrol bombed this morning in the wake of violence which has left at least nine dead.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria confirmed the number of people killed during three days of bitter street fighting.

A three-year-old child was among those killed yesterday and a policeman, Sergeant J. Tsipa, 41, was shot and hacked to death.

They were among five people believed to have been killed in the township yesterday.

Police also said scores of youths were arrested following yesterday's unrest.

Some local community leaders have fled the township.

Indian-run shops in Wynberg, Sandton, bordering Alexandra have been closed since saturday. Several stores have been looted and some damaged by petrol bombs. Wives and children have been sent out of the area to live with friends and relatives.

With heavy police and army presence today the township resembled a battleground.

Doctors at the Alexandra clinic yesterday refused security forces permission to enter the clinic following police interrogations of staff and photographing of unrest victims receiving treatment on Sunday, a spokesman for the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) said.

Police in Pretoria this morning confirmed that security forces had entered the clinic to try and identify unrest casualties.

Police and SADF troops surrounded the clinic yesterday, effecting a virtual blockade, the NAMDA spokesman said.

At least four factories on the borders of the township were extensively damaged by petrol bombs yesterday. Private security guards were posted outside deserted factories and ambulances and fire engines were unable to enter the riot-torn area. A fire engine was firebombed when it ventured into the township.

The Alexandra clinic was sealed off by police after doctors prevented police from entering the premises in search of injured people earlier yesterday.

Those injured in the unrest were treated at civil defence emergency clinics established by the Sandton Town Council on the outskirts of the township.

Doctors from Alexandra clinic expressed concern that wounded people were being arrested at the civil defence clinics. Police declined to comment on these reports.

Police reinforcements were called in at about 9pm after youths set up barricades and set several vehicles alight.

Earlier yesterday chanting youths marched down the township streets, shouting: "Mandela is our leader, down with Botha and his reforms." Police dispersed the youths with birdshot and tearsmoke.

Violence flared up again after weekend unrest early yesterday morning and streets were barricaded with old cars, rocks and burnt out tyres. All vehicles were prevented from entering the township.

Several houses, one belonging to a member of the town council, were firebombed.

Schools were deserted and businesses, including those belonging to Indians, were closed.

Workers from factories situated at the border of the township were sent home before midday and black employees from ESCOMS [Electricity Supply Commission] Megawatt Park were sent home yesterday afternoon.

Journalists were denied entry into the township following a directive from police liaison officer for Johannesburg, Colonel Fred Bull.

Spokesmen for residents and ratepayers associations in surrounding white areas said they had not been affected by the unrest. Residents did not appear to be overly frightened by the situation and, because the township was sealed off, "life is carrying on as usual."

SACC Delegation To Meet Residents

MB181057 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1052 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — A church delegation from the South African Council of Churches [SACC] executive is to meet Alexandra township residents at the PUTCO [Public Transportation Company] terminus today about the crisis in the area.

The delegation includes Dr Manas Buthelezi, Dr Alan Boesak, Dr Beyers Naude, Rev Stanly Mogoba and Rev Francois Bill, the SACC Communication Department said today.

30,000 Residents Hold Meeting

MB181209 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1208 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — More than 30,000 Alexandra residents packed into the local soccer stadium today, demanding the withdrawal of security forces from the violence-torn township and the release of all people arrested since unrest flared at the weekend.

At today's meeting residents said they planned to march on the Wynberg police station to make their demands. Throughout the emotion-charged meeting members of the security forces surrounded the stadium but kept a low profile. They late left to position themselves at the main entrance of the township. They had dogs and were holding sjamboks. A helicopter hovered above the township throughout the meeting.

The meeting was called by the local civic association and youth congress. The march was going to be led by the local clergy and members of the Alexandra Civic Association.

Workers from factories bordering the township were sent home before midday yesterday. Black employees at ESCOM's [Electricity Supply Commission] Megawatt Park were sent home in the afternoon.

With a heavy police and army presence today, the township resembled a battleground. Those injured in the unrest were treated at civil defence emergency clinics established by the Sandton Town Council on the outskirts of the township.

Doctors from Alexandra clinic expressed concern that wounded people were being arrested at the civil defence clinics. Police declined to comment on these reports.

A group of frightened Alexandra residents this morning said members of the security forces conducted a house-to-house raid in the township last night.

They said hundreds of youths were missing and were beleived either to have gone into hiding or to have been arrested.

All stores in the township were closed imposing further hardships on the residents.

The Alexandra Acting Action Committee has appealed for support from concerned people to get the security forces out of the township.

At least four factories on the borders of Alexandra were damaged extensively by petrol bombs yesterday. Private security guards were posted outside deserted factories.

Ambulances and fire-engines were unable to enter the riot-torn area. A fire-engine was fire-bombed when it ventured into the township.

Police reinforcements were called in at about 9pm after youths set up barricades and set several vehicles alight.

Yesterday, youths marched down streets shouting: "Mandela is our leader, down with Botha and his reforms." Police dispersed them with birdshot and tearsmoke.

Journalists were denied entry into the township after a directive from the police liaison officer for Johannesburg, Colonel Fred Bull.

A reporter and photographer of a Johannesburg newspaper were forced to leave the emergency clinic on the outskirts of the township. Police denied reports that foreign pressmen were arrested in Alexandra today.

"Members of the foreign press were taken to the police media liaison officer at Bramley for questioning but no arrests were made. The possibility that emergency regulations concerning audio-visual material were contravened is being investigated," a police spokesman said.

March on Police Station

MB181307 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1306 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, Feb 18, SAPA — More than 30,000 Alexandra residents packed into the local soccer stadium today and demanded the withdrawal of security forces from the violence-torn township and the release of all people arrested since unrest flared at the weekend.

Residents at the stadium began to march on the Wynberg police station to make their demands, led by local clergy and members of the Alexandra Civic Association. They were turned back by security forces. A police officer demanded to speak to the march leaders.

Residents dispersed peacefully back to the Alexandra stadium where they had earlier held a meeting and they waited for the outcome of the talks between a five-member delegation representing the community and the police. The delegation was led by members of the Alexander Civic Association and the South African Council of Churches.

According to the delegation, although the meeting was requested by the police, when they arrived at the Wynberg police station, the station commander refused to see them and demanded to speak to the township mayor, Reverend Sam Buti. A spokesman for the delegation said: "The station commander demanded to see the mayor of the township, Reverend Sam Buti, and would not speak to us." Mr Buti's whereabouts are not known.

By 1.30pm church leaders, Dr Beyers Naude, Dr Manas Buthelezi and Dr Allan Boesak, were still locked in a meeting with members of the Alexander Civic Association at the local Catholic church in an attempt to work out what they would say to the crowd gathered at the stadium.

Vlok: 19 Killed Since 15 Feb

MB181349 Johannebsurg SAPA in English
1348 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] House of Assembly, Feb 18, SAPA — Nineteen people had been killed and 37 wounded in unrest in Alexandra township since Saturday morning, the deputy minister of law and order, Mr Adrian Vlok said in reply to a question in the House today.

Sixteen people had been killed as a result of action by the police, two had died as a result of burns and one policeman was among the dead, he said.

Of the wounded, 27 had been injured as a result of police action, five policemen had suffered burns and five other people had been injured by rioters, four by stone-throwers.

Since unrest had broken out in the Johannesburg township early on Saturday, a total of 130 violent incidents had been recorded, Mr Vlok said.

He was replying to an untabled question from Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP [Progressive Federal Party] Houghton), who was given special permission by the speaker to put her question at the start of today's weekly question time.

Further Vlok Remarks on Unrest

MB181455 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1451 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] House of Assembly, Feb 18, SAPA — Nineteen people had been killed, 16 from gunshot wounds as a result of police action, and 37 wounded, of which 27 were shot by police, since unrest flared in Alexandra township early on Saturday, the deputy minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, said today.

Replying to an untabled question from Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP) Houghton, he said one policeman had died of panga wounds caused by rioters and two other people had died from burn wounds also caused by rioters.

Of the 10 people not injured by police shooting, five were policemen burnt by petrol bombs and five were civilans injured by rioters, one of whom had been shot, and four were injured by stonethrowers.

Mrs Suzman was given special permission by the speaker, Mr Johann Greeff, to put her question of the township's violence to Mr Vlok at the start of the House of Assembly's scheduled weekly question session this afternoon.

Confirming the unrest, Mr Vlok said it had resulted from the death of a black man caused by a nightwatchman at an Asian shop.

"Rioters in the early hours of February 15 caused extensive damage to buildings, business premises and vehicles by means of arson and stone throwing throughout the township," he said.

"During police action to maintain law and order, shots were fired at them (the police) and their vehicles were petrol bombed. Thus far, 130 incidents of violence have occurred."

In reply to another part of Mrs Suzman's question, the deputy minister said increased security force patrols had been carried out in the township since Saturday.

"Today, concerted actions by the police and the SA Defence Force were carried out to remove obstacles from roads and to search houses in an attempt to arrest suspects."

Mr Vlok declined "at this stage" to make any further statement on the matter.

Police Investigate 16 Feb Explosion Near Pretoria

MB170458 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2125 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 16, SAPA — Police are investigating an explosion that occurred in Mamelodi near Pretoria this morning.

A police spokesman, Pretoria, said tonight police had not completed their investigations and said until he received a report he could not confirm or deny if it was caused by a landmine.

He said nobody was injured and there was "no, or very little damage." He could not say precisely where the explosion occurred and it would only be known when police investigations were completed and they submitted their reports.

Landmine Suspected in Explosion

MB170545 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] The township conflict in South Africa may have entered a dramatic new phase, with reports of a suspected landmine attack against security forces in a major urban center. Zahed Kachalia has more details.

[Kachalia] A police armored vehicle was severely damaged in a suspected landmine blast in Mamelodi near Pretoria yesterday. The seven occupants of the vehicle were not injured in the explosion, which occurred on a sand road on the outskirts of the township. Police have, however, refused to confirm that a landmine caused it, although the casspir has been built to withstand such an explosion. The exploding device left a large crater in the ground, and was heard several kilometers away. After the incident, security forces scoured roads in the area with mine detectors and specially trained dogs. If it was indeed a landmine that caused the explosion, the township conflict, which has been raging in several parts of the country for 18 months, has entered a much more dramatic and violent phase.

Police Fired at Four Times in Crossroads Area

MB171742 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1741 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Cape Town, Feb 17, SAPA — Police patrolling the Crossroads area in Landsdowne road were shot at on four separate incidents at the weekend.

This was confirmed today by a police liaison officer for the western Cape, Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, who said the first incident occurred in Lansdowne Road in the early hours of yesterday morning when bullet marks were found on the casspir. No arrests have been made and no one was injured.

The second incident took place at Crossroads at 8.30pm when a shot was fired at a patrolling casspir. Ten minutes later, at 8.40pm in Klipfontein Road, a shot was again fired at a patrolling casspir. In the fourth incident later a bullet ricochetted off the casspir.

Lt Laubscher said the police do not know who is responsible and no arrests have yet been made. Regular patrols are maintained but police are concentrating in the area from which the shots were fired.

The public need not worry as the police are in full control of the situation, Lt Laubscher said.

Calm Returns to Atteridgeville After Rioting

MB170953 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0935 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 17, SAPA — Calm returned to Atteridgeville early today following a weekend of teargassing, tyre-burning and sjambokking [whipping] in the township.

It was business as usual as buses, trains and taxis ferried commuters between the township and Pretoria. Police in casspirs patrolled the area while South African Defence Force members manned roadblocks at the township's entrance.

The township was hit by a three-day stay-away called to protest against the presence of white policemen and SADF members in Atteridgeville and the recent shooting of two local pupils.

The stay-away, which started on Friday, was organised by the local stay-away committee to "demonstrate our rejection of the SADF and the SAP which has caused us more pain than the experience of giving birth."

On Friday, police dispersed hundreds of women who were about to march to the local police station. Several women were injured when quirt-wielding policemen dispersed the crowd.

A 22-year-old Atteridgeville man who was shot dead when police dispersed a group of youths in the township on Friday has been identified. He was Mr Isaac Matume of 23 Ramolongwana Street.

2 ANC Members Killed by Police Near Port Elizabeth

MB171220 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1214 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 17, SAPA — Two members of the SA police were wounded and two ANC terrorists killed early this morning in skirmishes near Port Elizabeth, the commissioner of the South African Police, General Johan Coetzee, announced today. Another terrorist was arrested.

A black man, found in possession of a Russian handgrenade and a revolver, was arrested early this morning in Zwide near Port Elizabeth. Information gathered by the police and followed up led to New Brighton, also near Port Elizabeth, where the SAP entered a hut. The SAP were fired on with an AK47 rifle. When they returned the fire, a black man was fatally wounded. Another black man, who was also in the hut, was arrested. Captain I.P. du Plessis was shot four times in the left leg. He is in hosptial in a satisfactory condition.

In further action in Soweto, Port Elizabeth, SAP members entered a wooden hut where a handgrenade was thrown at them from an adjoining room. Constable A. Strydom suffered several shrapnel wounds to his arms and legs. His condition has also been described as satisfactory.

The other police present fired at a black man, killing him. Another handgrenade and a Makarov pistol were found in the hut.

Situation 'Very Tense' in Bophuthatswana Township

MB171044 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1022 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 17, SAPA — In an attack against the burning of schools and houses, the stoning of buses and government properties, the Bophuthatswana Defence Force distributed pamphlets in the Mabopane-Ga-Rankuwa area this morning calling for an "immediate stoppage of these actions of violence."

The pamphlets warned residents that acts of violence resulted in poorly educated and illiterate people, lack of transport and an increase in transport costs, increases in taxes to rebuild damaged property and made life chaotic. The pamphlets advised residents to call on their authorities whenever they needed assistence, as the authorities were always ready to help.

An appeal has been made to law-abiding residents to report people committing acts of violence. Many commuters in Ga-Rankuwa were unable to report for work this morning as they were forced off trains, buses and taxis by armed youths. The situation was very tense as youths barricaded streets with drums and burning tyres.

A man has been admitted at the Ga-Rankuwa hospital after being shot by police in the chest and right arm. A hospital spokesman said that Mr Jacob Pooe was in satisfactory condition.

A number of cars belonging to whites working in a neighbouring industrial township were smashed as they passed through the trouble-torn area. Some motorists reported receiving minor injuries.

Two Killed in Tribal Fighting Near Durban

MB170834 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0814 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Durban, Feb 17, SAPA — Two people were killed in Inanda near Durban yesterday in fighting between the Mavunela and Tshabalala clans. Police said the fight broke out over a dispute of a piece of land in the Inanda area. It is believed that the chief in charge of the area, Chief Masinjani Ngcobo, had called a meeting between the two groups yesterday to discuss the matter. However, when the Tshabalal clan arrived they allegedly chased the Mavunela group away and a fight broke out. Mr Madodo Majozi and Mr Tulani Makwanasi were killed in the fight. Police were called and the groups dispersed. No one was arrested.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 14 Feb

MB161757 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1756 GMT 14 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 14, SAPA — The following is the 7pm unrest situation report issued by the police directorate of public relations in Pretoria:

"In Atteridgeville, Pretoria, the unidentified body of an 22-year-old black male was found by the South African police. Apparently he had been the victim of the unrest situation during the day. It seems that he had died of gunshot wounds.

"Eighteen black males above 18 and four under 18 was also arrested by the SAP for public violence after a stone throwing attack on the SAP.

"In another incident in Atteridgeville, the SAP had made use of tearsmoke and birdshot to disperse a mob.

"In Kwandebele a black male above 18 was slightly wounded and arrested and another black youth arrested after a stone throwing attack at the SAP and an attack on a delivery vehicle.

"In Soweto, Johannesburg, two private vehicles plus a private home as well as a bus was set alight by arsonists."

"In Potchefstroom, at Ikageng, a black male was injured when his vehicle was attacked by stonethrowers.

"In Outsthoorn, at Boguleto, stones had been thrown at SAP vehicles and estimated damage of R50000 has been done after a private vehicle was set alight.

"In New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, a vehicle belonging to the city council was petrol bombed, R25000 damage was also done after a petrol bomb attack at a private vehicle in Kwazakele (Port Elizabeth).

"In Sebokeng, a 13-year-old black girl was slightly wounded and arrested with three other black youths after various incidents of robbery of delivery vehicles.

"In Umlazi near Durban, the SAP have made use of birdshot and tearsmoke to disperse a mob."

15 Feb

MB150636 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0629 GMT 15 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 15, SAPA — (Situation report from the Police Directorate of Public Relations, Pretoria).

In the northern [Orange] Free State, 54 black people, of which 30 are under the age of 18, were arrested by the SAP after a petrol bomb was thrown at SAP vehicles.

In Soweto, a delivery vehicle and a private home was set alight by arsonists.

In the eastern Transvaal, near Breyten, stones were thrown at SAP vehicles. Police used tearsmoke to disperse them. Two black males were arrested for public violence.

In the South-Western districts of the Cape at Lawaaikamp near George, the SAP last night made use of birdshot and tearsmoke to restore law and order after roads had been barricaded and stones had been thrown at SAP vehicles. No casualties were reported.

In Natal, near Edendale, a black male was arrested for public violence after a stone-throwing incident.

Early 16 Feb

MB160706 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0702 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 16, SAPA — Here is the 8am unrest report, issued by a spokesman for the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria:

"In Alexandra the bodies of two black males, one under 18, were found in front of the clinic with gunshot wounds. They were apparently victims of the unrest yesterday.

"A police vehicle was set alight and sporadic incidents of stone-throwing occurred overnight. A private home and a business were petrol-bombed.

"In Sandton a stone was thrown at a police vehicle, slightly injuring a police reservist.

"In the eastern Transvaal, near Graskop, the SAP arrested eight black males under 18 and five females under 18 after they illegally barricaded a road.

"In the Eastern Province, stone-throwing incidents occurred in Zwide and Kwazakele. At Veeplaas a liquor store and a private home were set alight by arsonists.

"In Cape Town, two black males, one under 18, were arrested at Langa, after a stone-throwing incident.

"Stonethrowing incidents also occurred at Bellville South.

"At Phillipi, shots were fired at an SAP vehicle. There were no injuries or arrests.

"The burnt body of a black man was found in Guguletu.

"In the western Transvaal, near Wolmaranstad, a black male was arrested after a stonethrowing incident."

Ends report.

Late 16 Feb

MB170456 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1739 GMT 16 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 16, SAPA — The following is the 7pm unrest report from the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"In the Eastern Province, at Soweto near Port Elizabeth, the burned body of an unknown black male was found by the South African police. He apparently died a "necklace" death.

"In Zwide, (near Port Elizabeth) there have been occasions of stone throwing at police vehicles. There were no arrests or casualties reported there.

"In Alexandra, Johannesburg, sporadic incidents of public violence occurred during the day, various business premises and a bus were petrol bombed.

"In Boland, at Mbekweni near Paarl, a coloured female was injured after a petrol bomb attack on a bus.

"In the Pietermaritzburg area, in Edendale, two black males were arrested for public violence after a stone throwing incident.

"Various incidents of stonethrowing have occurred in Edendale during the day but no arrests, no casualties and no police action took place there."

Ends report.

Early 17 Feb

MB170733 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0728 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 17, SAPA — Here is the 8am unrest situation report, issued by the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported last night.

"At Umlazi, near Durban, an SAP vehicle was stoned. Police fired tearsmoke and birdshot, wounding a black man, who was arrested.

"At Chesterville, also near Durban, two private homes and two private vehicles were extensively damaged when they were petrol-bombed.

"An illegal gathering was dispersed with shotgun fire. A black man was fatally wounded and another injured and arrested.

"At Lamontville, two hand grenades were thrown at the home of a councillor. Extensive damage was caused. No one was injured.

"At Alexandra, near Johannesburg, a black woman was seriously injured when a burning tyre was placed around her.

"In the same area, mobs were dispersed with tearsmoke and shotgun fire when they stoned and petrol-bombed buses, SAP, administration board and private vehicles as well as factories and business premises. Three men were arrested in connection with attacks on a police vehicle and a private vehicle.

"Two men were fatally wounded when police dispersed a mob attacking a factory with petrol bombs. Nine men were arrested when they looted a shop. A man was injured when a municipal official fired at a mob which petrol-bombed his vehicle. Sixteen people were arrested when they stoned an administration board vehicle.

"In the black residential area near Wolmaranstad, in the Western Transvaal, two private vehicles were stoned. A man was arrested in connection with these incidents.

"In the black residential area near Witbank, there was an illegal gathering. Police arrested 641 people. There were no injuries. In the same area, SAP and private vehicles were stoned and petrol-bombed. An SAP member was slightly injured. These mobs were dispersed with tearsmoke and birdshot. No injuries were reported.

"Incidents of petrol-bombing, directed at four private homes and an electrical sub-station, were also reported.

"At Zwide near Port Elizabeth, a bottle store was set on fire and SAP vehicles and private homes were stoned and petrol-bombed.

"At Komolong near Henneman, a bus and a private home were stoned. Police arrested four men in connection with this incident.

"At Umasizakhe near Graaff Reinet a group of blacks numbering approximately 250 marched towards the white residentaial area of Graaff Reinet. When the police intervened, they were stoned. The mob was dispersed with pistol fire. A black woman was fatally injured and another wounded.

"At Kagiso on the West Rand, a private vehicle was set on fire. The driver was slightly injred. The vehicle was destroyed.

"At Old Crossroads in the Western Cape, shots were fired at SAP vehicles. No one was injured.

"At Dukatole near Aliwal North, two private homes were extensively damaged when they were set on fire. Police arrested nine people in connection with this incident."

Ends report.

Late 17 Feb

MB171727 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1727 GMT 17 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 17, SAPA — Following is SAP situation report on unrest to 7pm today:

"Alexandra: On several occasions shots were fired at the police by mobs of blacks. The police made use of birdshot and service firearms to disperse the attackers. One black male above 18, two black males under 18 were fatally wounded.

"A member of the SAP was wounded in the arm when shots were fired at his home by unknown blacks.

"Six black males above 18 and one under 18 were wounded and arrested by the SAP during these various incidents where petrol bombing of businesses and the SAP took place. One black female above 18 was also arrested for public violence.

"Shots were also fired at a member of the development board's house. He was wounded and is being treated in hospital.

"Durban, Umlazi: Stonethrowing incidents occurred at Gagai, the secondary school.

"Northern Ornage Free State: At Tumahole near Parys two black youths were wounded and arrested by the SAP after a stone throwing attack on a private vehicle. Three black males above 18, two black females above 18 and a black male under 18 were arrested for public violence and arson when a recreation hall was set alight.

"Soweto, Johannesburg: The body of a 23-year-old black male was found after he had been burned with tyres.

"Mamelodi, near Protoria: Isolated incidents of intimidation at primary schools has occurred this morning. The SA police have made use of tear smoke to diperse these intimidators."

Report ends.

Early 18 Feb

MB180623 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0621 GMT 18 Feb 86

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 18, SAPA — The following is the 8am unrest situation report from the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported last night:

"In Soweto, Witwatersrand, a bus was set on fire and destroyed.

"A number of delivery vehicles were damaged by stonethrowers.

"A private home was petrol-bombed and a woman in the house killed.

"In Atteridgeville near Pretoria police arrested a black man when he and three others were busy making petrol bombs.

"In the same area, a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"In Alexandra, a business premises was looted and extensive damaged caused.

"Police dispersed the mob with shotgun fire, fatally wounding a black man and wounding another.

"Three women and a man were arrested.

"In the same area, an SAP vehicle and a private vehicle were damaged by arsonists.

"At Kagiso on the west Rand, a private vehicle and a delivery vehicle were set on fire and extensively damaged."

"In Guguletu near Cape Town, a number of shots were fired at a police vehicle. The driver was wounded in the leg.

"In Edenpark near Alberton, a handgrenade was hurled at the mobile SAP charge office. Damage was minimal. No one was injured.

"In Mamelodi near Pretoria, a handgrenade was hurled at a policeman's house, injuring a guard outside the house.

"In the same area a private home was petrol-bombed and extensively damaged.

"In the black residential area near Witbank, SAP vehicles were petrol-bombed on a number of occasions. Police fired birdshot to disperse their attackers, wounding four black men.

"In the same area, a delivery vehicle, a private vehicle and a shopping complex were extensively damaged by arsonists."

Report ends.

Press Examines Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report] **Youths Injured in Kagiso**

"Scores of youths were injured, two of them seriously, when police threw teargas canisters inside the Methodist Church in Kagiso where hundreds of pupils had gathered to mark the second anniversary of the death of Atteridgeville unrest victim, Miss Emma Sathekge," Rich Mkhondo reports on page 3 of Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 14 February. However, a spokesman for the police public relations directorate in Pretoria "said he had not received reports of incidents of unrest in Kagiso."

Tutu Condemns Police Action

Mkhondo also reports on the same page that Bishop Desmond Tutu, commenting on the police raid on the Wilgespruit Fellowship Center after a visit to the center, said: " 'We condemn the police action. We do not understand why they had to use live ammunition. It is an example of how the situation in the country is getting worse.' "

Jouberton Unrest

Chris More reports on the same page that "at least three people are believed to have died when police fired shots to disperse mourners at the funeral of an unrest victim in Jourberton township near Klerksdorp on Sunday." The Jouberton town council administrative offices, the community hall, a men's hostel, and several council vehicles were destroyed by fire on Monday, there has been a complete school boycott since then, and youths have prevented buses from entering the township. "Residents claim police patrol the township and occasionally fire teargas into the air."

Bill on Indians in Free State, Natal

Introducing the debate on a bill that would allow Indians to live in the Orange Free State and northern Natal, Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha told the House of Delegates "the Government had committed itself to removing discriminatory and offensive measures from the statute books," *THE STAR* reports on the same page. Amichand Rajbansi, chairman of the Ministers Council in the House of Delegates, "said the bill signified the dawning of a new era," but added that the removal of the ban on Indians living in those areas "would not have practical meaning until the Group Areas Act was removed."

Groups Oppose Hospital Directive

Sue Dobson reports on page 4 of *THE STAR* that a number of organizations, including the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Transvaal Regional Council of the National Medical and Dental Association, the Health Workers Association, and the Federation of Ratepayers of Lenasia, "have pledged their support of the stand taken by doctors at Johannesburg's Coronation Hospital against a Transvaal Provincial Administration directive forcing patients to go to hospitals in their 'own' areas."

STAR on Removing Discrimination

"Very soon the responsibility for removing racial discrimination will be passed from Government to local authorities and the private sector," a second editorial on the same page says. Legislation during the current parliamentary session permits the removal of discrimination in liquor laws. "To apply discrimination is to ask for trouble," the paper says, and the benefits of and many hotels and restaurants have gone multiracial already with no problems.

STAR on Draft Evaders

A third editorial on the same page discusses Defense Minister Magnus Malan's refusal to give Parliament statistics for draft evaders. This was information "the country, through its elected representatives, has every right to know. The figures had nothing to do with security, but they would no doubt embarrass the Minister of Defence and his colleagues. And that is no criterion for secrecy."

Elections Over Vacant Seats

Political correspondent Brian Stuart reports on pages 1 and 2 of the Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 14 February that the resignation of Slabbert and Boraine from Parliament will leave vacancies in the constituencies of Claremont and Pinelands. "It is already obvious that the National Party [NP] will contest both constitutencies." The battle for Pinelands "will be a fierce one with the NP attempting to show support on the basis of reform, and Mr Eglin attempting to reinforce his leadership by retaining the seat. Claremont would be fought because it adjoins Pinelands and there is considerable cross-flow between the two seats."

CITIZEN on Boraine

In an editorial on the resignation of Alex Boraine on page 6, *THE CITIZEN* says Boraine "is not a politician we have admired. He is far too Left, his views are controversial, and his support of the extra-Parliamentary movements and of contacts with the ANC is disturbing." "Dr Boraine's Left-wing campaigns in Parliament were bad enough; having him as an active supporter of radical causes would be worse." Turning to the fate of the PFP, the paper says "the party's image among the voters is zero. For how can the electorate place any faith in a party of political prima donnas who opt out of the battle at the drop of a hat? Shame on Dr Slabbert and Dr Boraine for abandoning Parliament and their party in such self-indulgent fashion."

Memorial Service

In a front-page report on a memorial service for Emma Sathekge, who died when she was run over by a police vehicle 2 years ago, Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 14 February says that speakers representing the Transvaal Students Congress and the

Atteridgeville/Saulsville Students Congress warned that " 'Africans will not rest until they have been given freedom in the country of their birth."

SOWETAN on PFP Resignations

In an editorial entitled "A Charade" on page 4, the *SOWETAN* says that although "the conventional wisdom among black political observers used to be that white politics or what happened in Parliament was irrelevant to blacks," "things have changed to such an extent that we fear we need to comment about what is happening in Parliament." The resignation of Slabbert and Boraine "has given impetus" to black opposition to "attempts to lure us into some form of pseudo-representation" and should cause colored and Indian MPs "to feel the ridicule of their representation." Slabbert and Boraine had a "valid point" in resigning: "If you are part of an organisation that has no relevance to yourself and instead seems to make things worse for you and your people, the best thing is to keep some distance between yourself and such an organisation."

Column on Integrating Schools

The "Joe's Burg" column on page 6 discusses the House of Delegates' and House of Representatives' decision to open Colored schools and Indian schools to all races and the government's refusal to open white schools. The government is "so sensitive" about opening white schools to blacks because it is at school that "white children are indoctrinated to believe they are better than blacks." However, the decision to open Colored and Indian schools is a problem for the government since "if they stop the Coloureds and Indians from opening up their schools to all races, they would go against the principle of 'own affairs.' If they don't, the Coloured and Indian exercise could be so successful that it would make it difficult for Government to continue its policy of separation."

Speculation on Mandela Release

"If you want to know when Nelson Mandela will be freed, say observers, watch next Thursday. Because on that day President P.W. Botha's Government begins negotiations in Switzerland to reschedule — postpone repayment of — its international debts," another front-page article reports. However, "if Botha can temporarily withstand the pressure from foreign banks — and from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker, currently meeting SA Foreign Minister Pik Botha in Switzerland — Mandela may not walk out of Pollsmoor Prison for some time."

CITY PRESS on Mandela

In its editorial on page 2, *CITY PRESS* says "the speculation over the fate of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela is not doing the country any good." The government's continued imprisonment of "a man of such stature" demonstrates its "heartlessness." Its talk of negotiating a dispensation acceptable to all can never "become a reality without the participation of Nelson Mandela and his collegues."

Strike at 3M

Mono Badela reports on the same page that 350 workers, all members of the Commercial, Catering, and Allied Workers Union, at the Elandsfontein plant of 3M SA, "which boasts that it is among the first ten companies in SA to observe the Sullivan Code," have gone on strike because of " 'unfair labour practices.'" The workers are demanding that the company rehire some 55 workers who were dismissed last year and who have been replaced by "casual workers, including white schoolboys."

Black Sash Conference

A report on page 4 notes that at a regional conference of the eastern Cape Black Sash, the organization noted that "black areas throughout the country have been subjected to increasing police violence during the past year and need to be carefully monitored and helped in their demand for advice offices and crisis centres." Black Sash leader Sheena Duncan told the conference the "issues which will be concentrated on this year include the monitoring of legislation to ensure new influx control mechanisms were not brought in to replace existing ones, and the removal of legislation which provides for detention without trial."

44 Doctors Leave RSA

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English on 14 February reports on page 4 that Eli Louw, minister of education and advisory services, told Parliament "a total of 44 medical doctors left the Republic permanently in the first 10 months of 1985." Louw added that figures for November and December were not available.

NP MP on Damage of Apartheid

"The outdated concept of apartheid has caused South Africa inestimable damage and everything would have to be done to get rid of it as quickly as possible, Ger Terblanche (NP Bloemfontein North) said" in Parliament, the paper reports on the same page.

MP Says Reform Caused Crisis

"The government's reform policies had caused a 'crisis of confidence' in South Africa, S.P. Barnard (CP [Conservative Party] Langalaate)" told Parliament, another report on the same page says. Barnard said that since " 'these new ideas'" had emerged, the value of the rand had plummeted.

Negotiations on Mandela

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English on 15 February reports on page 1 that "negotiations for the release of Mr Nelson Mandela appear to have reached a stalemate but with one further stipulation. If Mr Mandela does not reject violence, he can still be released with the simultaneous release of Captain Wynand du Toit and Soviet dissident Mr Andrey Sakharov." The Angolans, however, will only release Du Toit with the release of captured Cuban and Angolan personnel. According to Alan Dunn reporting from Washington, Foreign Minister Pik Botha in his talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker tied the release of Mandela to the release of Du Toit. Mr Botha said after the meeting that " 'if he (Mandela) announces that he would not participate in violence, he goes free. Even if he does not do that, if Mr Sakharov could be released and Captain du Toit, he goes out.'" This dashed hopes of "an imminent unilateral release for Mandela."

Mandela Release

Johannesburg *THE WEEKLY MAIL* in English 14-20 February reports on the discussions concerning the possible release of Nelson Mandela that "it is believed negotiations broke down last week over demands that the ANC leader have a 'cooling off' period away from his home in Soweto after his release. This was because the authorities were worried about the effects of simply freeing him unconditionally. It is believed that Mandela has taken a hard line against demands that he spend such a 'cooling off' period outside of the country. His family have made it clear that he wishes to be released on South African soil." Security forces are believed to be worried about setting off an "unpredictable chain of events" if he is simply released unconditionally. They feel that if he spends some time outside the country, his return to Soweto will be less tumultuous. They have "sought assurances on what he will do immediately after his release."

Detainee Hunger Strikes

An article by Ruth Becker on page 2 reports on the hunger strike by 50 State of Emergency detainees in Johannesburg and says their complaints include continued detention of minors, unsatisfactory visiting rights, insufficient exercise, inadequate medical attention and discrimination in the type of food supplied different race groups. The Detainees Parents Support Committee also has information that centers at Modderbeen Prison and in the Eastern and Western Cape are likely to join the strikes. The detainees have presented a memorandum to the minister of law and order and the minister of justice detailing their above mentioned demands.

Upsurge of Strikes

The paper reports on page 3 that "South Africa has experienced its most strike-bound January in a decade, reflecting an extraordinary upsurge in worker militancy. More than 385,000 working days were lost last month due to industrial action, according to strike figures complied by management labour consultant Andrew Levy. This is one of the highest monthly rates since 1979, compared with 5,000 in January last year and the previous January record of 96,000 in 1984." According to Levy, wage disputes are accounting for a much smaller percentage of the disputes and "the political climate is creating fundamental changes to industrial relations which are not yet fully understood by either side." Workers are striking over racial incidents and are sometimes refusing to negotiate. This is provoking a different attitude by management. " 'We're heading back into the jungle,' " Levy said.

Saths Cooper Arrest

In a report on page 3 on the arrest of Azanian People's Organization leader Saths Cooper from Gwen Lister in Windhoek, the paper says that "Cooper's arrest is viewed as a major faux pas on the part of the interim government which professes to adhere to a bill of fundamental rights which provides, among other things, for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly." The case has been postponed to 14 April and Cooper has returned to Johannesburg.

Johannesburg Business District

"The Central Business District of Johannesburg is expected to be opened to all races next week — but no influx of black traders is expected," the paper reports on page 4. According to Soweto's millionaire entrepreneur Richard Maponya, a rush of black traders was not expected because the area was "saturated already." Blacks needing office and small factory space would be more likely to move than traders. Cape Town and Durban and other major cities are expected to follow suit in the next 2 or 3 months.

Sparks on Reform

Alister Sparks reviews on page 6 the rebuke of Pik Botha and Slabbert's resignation and says that it revealed what President P.W. Botha "really intends doing with apartheid. It is a policy to reformulate and modernize apartheid, but not scrap it." "Outdated" laws will go, blacks, coloreds and Indians can be coopted into the government at junior level "but there can never be a black government with a black president." "With carefully shaded language, government leaders have developed a code that can be read in different ways by different audiences; it wraps old practices in new euphemisms, putting a gloss on marginal reforms for the benefit of foreign critics while reassuring the folks at home that the essentials of the old system will remain." With Pik Botha and F.W. de Klerk going in different directions, the president had to clarify which was the authorised version, which was De Klerk's "as experienced observers have always known that it was." This does not mean that apartheid is not changing. The government is coming to terms with black urbanization and industrial advancement and other laws are being scrapped. "But political control must be retained in white hands. That means retaining legally defined racial groups, forcing them to continue living in separate groups areas, and creating a political system based on these racial units which will have certain powers of local government over their own ethnic affairs and be given a token role at the national level." Although is a major shift for the Afrikaner, no black leader will take part in this type of framework.

Cape Schools

"Order is slowly being restored in Cape Town high schools after days of chaos and confusion" which followed the announcement by the minister of culture and education in the House of Representatives that pupils who boycotted the final examinations could still be promoted, the WEEKLY MAIL report on page 8. The minister's major turnabout came after representations by school principles. Students announced they were promoting themselves but gave individual pupils the freedom to remain behind if they did not feel confident about moving to the next grade. A UDF official welcomed the students " 'maturity and reasonableness.' "